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What we did in 2017 and 2018

2018 – the year of the hundredth anniversary of Poland's regaining independence inspires reflection on how Poland has contributed to the global development of culture and science through international cooperation within UNESCO. Participating in the more than 70 years of history of UNESCO, which reflects – against the backdrop of changing international circumstances – the aspirations and efforts to build understanding between people at various levels of cooperation – Poland, as one of the founding Member States, shared the ideals of UNESCO Constitution and actively participated in the Organization's programmes, by involving both governmental institutions and the people representing our country, who made their individual contributions to the common work. The National Commission for UNESCO was established in Poland as early as in October 1946, as one of the first national commissions.

Directing our thoughts towards the future prompts us to reflect on how the set of UNESCO normative instruments formed in hot international debates may help to better protect our cultural heritage and support our memory of history.

The expertise of UNESCO within the UN encompasses a wide range of fields that our institution is concerned with; this requires regular cooperation of the Permanent Secretariat with the members of the National Commission representing respective ministries and individual members appointed in their personal capacity, as well as with diverse external experts. In 2017, the Polish National Commission for UNESCO has welcomed new individual members: Professor Piotr Bieliński, an archaeologist; Professor Marek Konarzewski, a biologist and expert in evolutionary ecology; and Paweł Lisicki, an editor.

In line with the objectives of Polish foreign policy and cultural policy corresponding to UNESCO priorities, the National Commission has worked towards building peace through developing international cooperation, based on dialogue, knowledge, and mutual

understanding in the fields of UNESCO interest. At the same time, it has strived to promote the UNESCO ideas and programmes in Poland and to implement the achievements of the international community, beneficial to the country's development, expressed in conventions, programmes and recommendations pertaining mainly to cultural and documentary heritage and the natural environment, with special attention paid to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 by the United Nations. Furthermore, we have made efforts to foster cooperation with EU countries, including the Visegrád Group and other neighbor countries, working together with other national commissions in Europe. An important aim of our activities within the North-South cooperation has been joining the projects for developing countries, mainly Sub-Saharan Africa – Africa being UNESCO's priority – but also other developing countries.

With no doubt, the greatest achievement of Poland in 2017 in cooperation with UNESCO was the organization of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee (WHC) in Kraków. Taking advantage of Poland's membership in this prestigious body, our National Commission has made efforts in order to host this most important and largest UNESCO gathering outside of Paris. The representatives of the National Commission took part in both the event itself and its preparation. The session was chaired by the President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, Professor Jacek Purchla, who had been elected to this function at the previous, 40th session of WHC in Istanbul. The Interministerial Team for the preparation of the 41st session of the WHC, with the participation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Polish National Commission for UNESCO, was headed by Professor Magdalena Gawin, the Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. At the session, the Polish delegation was headed by the Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and National Heritage, Professor Piotr Gliński and, in his absence, by the Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, Professor Sławomir Ratajski. Apart from the successful conduct of the debates and the further development of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, an important achievement of the session was for us the inscription of "Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System" on the World Heritage List as the 15th World Heritage Site in Poland.

The National Commission, together with the International Cultural Centre, organized the 2017 World Heritage Young Professionals Forum, which preceded the session and became a successful discussion forum for young experts from 32 countries, on topics such as the reconstruction and conservation of heritage destroyed as a result of armed conflicts and natural catastrophes. On the opening of the 41st session of the WHC, a Declaration was presented, set by the members of the WHYPF on "Memory: Lost and Recovered Heritage". This issue was afterwards the topic of the UNESCO conference "The

challenges of World Heritage recovery. International conference on reconstruction”, which, according to the decision of the 41st session of the WHC, took place in the Royal Castle in Warsaw on 6–8 May 2018. The Castle, raised from ruins thanks to the efforts and professional work of generations of Polish conservators, had a particularly symbolic dimension in the context of the discussed issues and became a space for debate for nearly 200 participants – representatives of UNESCO, ICOMOS, and ICCROM, and experts from these organizations, as well as experts from World Heritage sites which themselves have recently become destroyed. The important achievement of the conference was the adoption of the Warsaw Recommendation, which contains the methodology outline on the recovery of destroyed cities and urban areas through reconstructing and rebuilding tangible heritage, but also considering the intangible heritage of the community. Attention was brought to the crucial role of educating and raising public awareness on the value and diversity of cultural heritage.

One of the main types of action undertaken by our National Commission

in cooperation with other institutions is aimed at sharing of experiences of Polish archaeologists and conservators with other countries, in particular the countries of war-torn Middle East. It is very much in line with the priority of UNESCO which calls for assistance in recovery and reconstruction of the World Heritage destroyed during conflicts. In addition to the Summer School for young heritage experts from Central and Eastern Europe, organized annually in Lublin, and other initiatives related to protecting cultural heritage, such as the ongoing fellowship programme for art conservators from Belarus, we have started a new programme in cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat. It is a fellowship programme for young archaeologists and conservators from the countries of Middle East, carried out thanks to the support of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, in cooperation with the University of Warsaw, Warsaw Fine Arts Academy and Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. This project is aimed at developing cooperation between research centres and universities with the support of UNESCO. The UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Conservation and Archaeology widens the range of available fellowships in the successfully run for several years now UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Engineering, and has become an important means of international scientific exchange. Thanks to these fellowships, our country, next to China and Japan, can offer significant contribution in the field of science. Another fellowship programme which aims at developing professional skills, coordinated by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and carried out by universities and research institutes in Poland was the fellowship programme addressed mainly to the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. We have received more than 150 young scientists in total within a range of various fellowship programmes per year.

The most important UNESCO event in 2017 was the 39th session of the General Conference (GC) in Paris, which adopted the Organization's

programme for the years 2018–2021 and the budget for the next biennium, as well as a number of resolutions, crucial for fulfilling the UNESCO mission, especially important in view of the current global challenges, including the implementation of the Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) lying within the competence of UNESCO. The General Conference elected the new Director-General, Ms. Audrey Azoulay, nominated by the Executive Board at its 202nd session. The Polish delegation, headed by Prof. Jacek Czaputowicz, then Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, actively participated in debates. Representatives of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO participated in the works of Programme Commissions, and the Secretary-General, Professor Sławomir Ratajski was appointed rapporteur to the Commission on Natural Sciences (SC).

The issues to be discussed at the 39th session of the GC were largely debated during the Annual Informal Meeting of the European Network of National Commissions for UNESCO, organized by the Greek National Commission in Thessaloniki, on 2–5 April 2017. The team that prepared the agenda of the meeting was composed of representatives of National Commissions from Poland, Germany, and France. The meeting attended by 35 representatives of National Commissions from Europe and Canada was devoted, among others, to: cultural heritage at risk, intangible cultural heritage, Euro-Arab Dialogue, education needs in the context of the 2030 Agenda and the possible contribution to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG 11, 16 and 17, as well as to further development of UNESCO programmes, such as the Memory of the World Programme and UNESCO networks in respective countries. Similarly to previous meetings, in Kraków (2016), and in Bonn (2015), the main goals were to bring the positions closer together, exchange experiences, and to extend both the cooperation of European National Commissions, and the perspective of acting towards the common vision of the Organization's work.

The spring (201st) and autumn (202nd) sessions of the Executive Board were devoted to preparing the subsequent draft decisions of the General Conference. Representatives of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO participated in both sessions as observers. An important item of the agenda of the Executive Board was the review of the Memory of the World Programme and the draft amendments to its International Advisory Committee (IAC) statutes. Since the launching of the Programme, Poland has devoted significant attention to its development, hence Poland's active participation in the negotiations aimed at making decisions beneficial to its future. At the end of 2017, the UNESCO Director-General, basing on the IAC recommendation, decided on new inscriptions on the Memory of the World Register, which refer to facts in our history important in the history of the world: The Act of the Union of Lublin document (joint Polish-Lithuanian-Belarusian-Ukrainian-Latvian nomination),

Documents of Polish Radio Intelligence from the period of the Battle of Warsaw in 1920 and Jürgen Stroop's Report "Es gibt keinen jüdischen Wohnbezirk in Warschau mehr!" (There is no more Jewish district in Warsaw!). The certificates of the two last inscriptions were transmitted to concerned memory institutions during a ceremony in the representative halls of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw.

In 2017 and 2018, the National Commission continued its priority activities aimed at implementing and disseminating the provisions of UNESCO conventions and recommendations concerning protecting, safeguarding and managing cultural heritage. Attention was brought to improve some regulations in the Polish legislative order, which still does not entirely reflect the UNESCO legal instruments ratified by Poland. This issue was the topic of the Nationwide Culture Conference organized in a number of Polish cities by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The Conference became a relevant forum to present the National Commission's opinions on the protection, safeguarding and preservation of heritage and on promoting cultural diversity whilst taking into consideration the status of the artist. Currently, the National Commission is involved in the works aimed at the drafting of a new act on protecting heritage, which could take into account the proposals presented, among others, in the publications of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO: "Why and How to Protect Cultural Heritage by Modern Means" (2014) and "Cultural and Natural Landscape from the Social Perspective" (2015). The National Commission paid particular attention to the implementation of the UNESCO Convention on Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage, taking part, among others, in the works of the Intangible Cultural Heritage Council attached to the Minister of Culture and National Heritage, including recommending the inscription of new elements on the National List of Intangible Heritage (currently listing 32 elements), and contributing to the elaboration of the first Polish nominations on the Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: "Nativity scene (szopka) tradition in Kraków" and "Tree beekeeping culture" (Polish-Belarusian proposal of international nomination). Furthermore, a representative of the National Commission headed the Polish delegation at the 12th session of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which took place on Jeju Island, Republic of Korea.

In addition to the above-mentioned activities focused on the implementation and promotion of the UNESCO approach to protecting and safeguarding the tangible and intangible cultural heritage, the National Commission checked on the progress of works aimed at implementing other UNESCO conventions, with special attention paid to their synergy in situations of threats resulting from armed conflicts, natural disasters, as well as from ignorance that leads to the destruction of human heritage. It refers to the Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict

(1954) and its Second Protocol (1999), as well as to the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1970). The Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), despite being ratified by Poland in 2007, still encounters interpretative difficulties and requires more promotion.

One of the main methods of fostering social and international dialogue is the development of various types of cooperation networks within UNESCO. In addition to the dynamically developing Informal European Network of National Commissions or committees of the Memory of the World Programme, our National Commission attaches great importance to the coordination of the continuously expanding UNESCO Associated Schools Network (currently with 100 Polish schools), thanks to which we popularize the ideas and programmes of UNESCO. The activities of ASPNet in Poland were focused on ideas of Agenda 2030, cultural heritage and Arts Education. The Polish National Commission for UNESCO was the initiator of an international conference “On the need for media education” in November 2018. The meeting of various stakeholders was an opportunity to raise questions about media education: what has changed in the domain in the last years, as far as diagnoses, needs, expectations, and postulates are concerned, with relation to electronic media development and social communication phenomena observed worldwide.

UNESCO Chairs are the most visible and efficient means to secure the promotion of UNESCO ideas and programmes on the university level; at the same time they add prestige to respective higher education institutions. This is why their activities are closely monitored by the UNESCO Secretariat. Our National Commission, which cooperates with UNESCO Chairs in Poland on a regular daily basis, focuses mostly on securing their continuous activity, at the same time supporting the elaboration of new UNESCO Chairs projects. In 2018, two new Chairs were established in Poland: UNESCO Chair in Cultural Heritage Law at the University of Opole and UNESCO Chair on Ecohydrology and Applied Ecology at the University of Łódź.

Another vigorously developing programme is the Creative Cities Network becoming more and more attractive to many cities around the globe. In Poland, increasingly more cities look for new development opportunities in sustainable development based on culture. The National Commission supported the efforts of the city of Łódź to obtain the title of UNESCO Creative City of Film, which was granted by the decision of Director-General Irina Bokova in October 2017. By this decision, Łódź joined Kraków (the City of Literature) and Katowice (the City of Music) as Polish cities of the Network. The cities of Kraków and Katowice, jointly referred to as “Krakowice”, have become a good example of this collaboration, organizing the Annual Meeting of Creative Cities in 2018. The Annual Meeting took place on 12–16 June 2018 in both cities, gathering over 350 delegates from almost 200 Network member cities from across the Globe. Its aim was to stimulate the

cities' cooperation via "creative crossroads", encouraging innovative cooperation models between various culture fields, creative industries and geographic regions, as well as supporting local and international activities of member cities in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda Goals.

The Polish National Commission for UNESCO, by attaching importance to the UNESCO/MAB (Man and the Biosphere Programme) Network of Biosphere Reserves, has liaised with the Polish National Committee UNESCO-MAB, a body in which our National Commission is represented. We also followed the participation of Polish institutions in the works of other intergovernmental and international UNESCO scientific programmes, such as the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and the International Geoscience and Geoparks Programme.

Poland actively participated in the managing bodies of several UNESCO programmes, namely the IHP (International Hydrological Programme) and IPDC (International Programme for the Development of Communication). The director of the European Regional Centre for Ecohydrology (ERCE) under UNESCO auspices, Professor Maciej Zalewski, headed the UNESCO International Hydrological Programme Advisory Committee in years 2014–2017, and Dr Iwona Wagner (ERCE) headed the Governing Board of the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education. The expert representing Poland in the IPDC Bureau is Dr Krzysztof Wojciechowski. Professor Ewa Bartnik participated in the works of the International Bioethics Committee (IBC), ending her second term in office. The Information for All Programme (IFAP) was implemented by the Polish IFAP Committee and concentrated mainly on issues related to developing media, information, and digital expertise through education. As in previous years, we were involved in the organization of the subsequent Polish editions of the L'Oréal Competition for Women and Science, together with the Ministry of Science and Higher Education and the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Permanent tasks of the National Commission include popularizing UNESCO ideas and programmes through granting its honorary patronage to local, national and international initiatives carried out by various institutions throughout the country. The most important ones included the 100th Anniversary of the Polish Avant-garde under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland. The National Commission has participated in numerous celebrations organized in the Presidential Palace tied to the 100th Anniversary of Regaining Independence by Poland. A representative of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO was invited to join the commemoration committee.

Among the events organized under the auspices of UNESCO and strongly supported by the Polish National Commission, the following should be mentioned: the Ostbalticum Project devoted to the reconstruction of the archaeological museum collections from the south-eastern coast of the Baltic Sea, two editions of the World

Folklore Review "Integration", and the Brave Kids Festival, as well as the 13th edition of the Brave Festival – Against Cultural Exile.

The Polish National Commission for UNESCO has also granted patronage to several dozen initiatives concerning UNESCO-related issues on the national level.

In 2017, two Polish anniversaries were celebrated under UNESCO auspices: the 100th anniversary of the death of Ludwik Zamenhof and the 200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko. 2017 was also proclaimed by the Polish Senate and Sejm as the Year of Kościuszko, with celebrations under the patronage of the President of the Republic of Poland. Representatives of the National Commission took part in the associated events.

The most accessible source of information about the activities of both UNESCO and our National Commission is the web page of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO: www.unesco.pl. We invite for a visit everyone who is eager to extend their knowledge on the topics which have been only briefly mentioned in this article. We invite Anglophone readers to refer to our Bulletin available in digital form on the aforementioned site.

The diversity of tasks and actions completed by the Permanent Secretariat of the National Commission required cooperation and support from the institutions competent in matters of Poland–UNESCO cooperation, first of all Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Delegation of Poland to UNESCO. We collaborated on a regular basis with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ministry of National Education, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Administration and Digitization, Ministry of Investments and Development, Ministry of Sport and Tourism, Polish Academy of Sciences, Polish Television, The Head Office of State Archives, the National Heritage Board of Poland, National Centre for Culture, International Cultural Centre, and other organizations. Some events of national interest were hosted by the Chancellery of the President of the Republic of Poland. Many of our activities would not have been possible without the close collaboration with the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris. The large circle of partners engaged in realizing the UNESCO programmes reflects the common vision of a global network of commitment for peace. ●

Sławomir Ratajski

Secretary-General, Polish National Commission for UNESCO

39th session of the UNESCO General Conference

The General Conference, the highest executive body of UNESCO, is a representation of all Member States. Each of them has one vote, regardless of its size and of the amount of its budgetary contribution. The General Conference devises the Organization's main lines of action. The decisions made there relate to the programme, budget, administrative reforms and programme initiatives. The session's participants include delegations of Member States (195) and Associated Members (after adhesion of New Caledonia there are currently 10) and observers – the states that are not UNESCO members, intergovernmental organizations, and international non-governmental organizations cooperating with UNESCO. The debates are conducted on the plenary forum as well as in commissions and committees. The General Conference elects the members of the Executive Board and the subsidiary committees (including the executive bodies of intergovernmental programmes). Every four years, the General Conference elects a UNESCO Director-General.

In the plenary debate on the 39th session of the General Conference, Poland was represented by Jacek Czaputowicz, the head of delegation, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at that time. The deputy chair functions of the delegation were performed by: Professor Magdalena Gawin, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and Ambassador Krystyna Żurek, Permanent Delegate of Poland to UNESCO. The members of the delegation included representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, Ministry of Science and Higher Education, the Permanent Delegation to UNESCO and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Professor Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for

UNESCO, was elected a rapporteur of the Commission on Natural Sciences and will perform this function until the next General Conference session.

During the debates, Member States expressed their conviction of the increasing importance of UNESCO in the current global situation. References were made to peace and related problems: violence occurring in many forms; development inequalities, including unequal access to education, information and knowledge; stereotypes and prejudice in international relations; losses and threats to cultural and natural heritage; as well as climate change and its negative impact on humans and the environment, including access to fresh water. It was highlighted that UNESCO is capable of addressing these issues through specific programmes and international conventions. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by the United Nations General Assembly should translate into a more comprehensive use of the current UNESCO programmes for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). These programmes relate mainly to SDG 4 – a goal entirely devoted to education, but also, to various extents, to the other nine SDGs. The issue of sustainable development is present both in the UNESCO Medium-Term Strategy, which is in power until 2021, as well as in the present activities of the Organization, through the instruments of international cooperation: conventions, programmes, and activities of networks under UNESCO auspices.

The adoption of the new programme therefore increases the emphasis on, among others, the ties of culture and development, protecting and safeguarding of cultural heritage, the importance of water resources management, freedom of expression and safety of journalists, and also the intersectoral cooperation between respective UNESCO sectors: Education, Natural Sciences, Social and Human Sciences, Culture, Communication and Information. As a result of the work in the Programme Commissions, the General Conference



39th session of UNESCO General Conference. Photo: © UNESCO / Fabrice GENTILE

adopted the UNESCO Programme for 2018-2021 (document 39 C/5) and the Expenditure Plan for 2018-2019.

During the session, the second term of Director-General Irina Bokova (Bulgaria) came to an end. Her successor became Ms. Audrey Azoulay, the former Minister of Culture of France. Her candidature was put forward by the Executive Board through an election. In the official speech during the investiture ceremony on 13 November 2017, the new Director-General pointed out the examples of main threats, which, in her opinion, UNESCO will have to face as a multilateral cooperation institution: the degradation of natural environment, terrorism, questioning the achievements of science, actions aimed



Audrey Azoulay elected UNESCO Director-General at the 39th session of General Conference. Photo: © UNESCO / C. ALIX

against the principles of cultural diversity, discrimination of women and mass migrations.

New legal instruments

The works of the General Conference resulted in adopting two normative instruments: the Declaration on ethical principles in relation to climate change and UNESCO Recommendations on science and scientific researchers. It was assumed that the text of the future global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications will be adopted on the subsequent session of the General Conference in 2019.

The UNESCO Declaration on ethical principles in relation to climate change

Considering the 10 years of works of the World Commission on the Ethics of Scientific Knowledge and Technology (COMEST) and the entry into force of the December 2015 Paris Agreement, adopted in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), work has been undertaken on a non-binding normative instrument in the form of a "Declaration" dedicated to ethical aspects. The Declaration was meant to complement the already existing international documents. As a result of the activities of the working group created to draft the document, consultations with Member States organized in 2016 and the

debate during the intergovernmental conference in 2017, the text of the Declaration came into life, adopted without amendments by the General Conference. Thus, the Declaration of Ethical Principles in relation to Climate Change/Déclaration de principes éthiques en rapport avec le changement climatique highlights the importance of the scientific approach to climate change issues and recommends employing the available knowledge in natural and social sciences.

UNESCO Recommendation on science and scientific researchers

In 1974, UNESCO General Conference adopted the Recommendation on the status of the scientific researcher. After years, the need to update this document and adapt it to new challenges was recognized. The scope of the discussed issues was also widened, expressed in the new title of the document: Recommendation on science and scientific researchers/Recommandation concernant la science et les chercheurs scientifiques.

In the updated Recommendation, a special emphasis is put on the ethical aspects of scientific activity. The following areas were discussed: responsibility in respecting human dignity, progress, justice, peace, well-being of humanity and environment protection as ideals of United Nations; the role of science in building equitable and inclusive societies; the role of science in creating public policy and decision-making on the national level and in international cooperation and development; promoting science as a common good; adequate working conditions and access to training and work; compatibility of scientific activity with the universal norms in human rights issues; maintaining the balance between the freedom in science and in scientific research and the rights of scientists versus responsibility.

The upcoming global convention on the recognition of higher education qualifications

The General Conference adopted a resolution according to which the works on the new global UNESCO normative instrument on higher education will be continued. The topic of the debates on the session was the draft of the Convention of 7 July 2017. The future convention aims to provide the right for the graduates of higher education institutions to have their diplomas recognized by the competent authorities of the country in which they currently reside in a transparent and non-discriminative way. The convention is meant to be an instrument of international cooperation, aiming to enhance the quality of higher education. Some issues, however, still require clarification. A resolution was thus adopted which states that UNESCO Member States will be consulted on particular entries on the draft in the form of answers to a detailed questionnaire. It is assumed that the text of the Convention will be adopted by the General Conference in 2019.

A decision was also made on starting a new draft UNESCO Recommendation on Open Educational Resource (OER). This initiative was supported, at the same time highlighting the respect for copyrights, the role of teachers, and teacher–pupil relations.

The UNESCO Recommendations belong to the category of the soft law. They are inspiration, guidelines, and incentives for countries to adopt legal and organizational solutions congruent with the contents of these documents, based on consultations with Member States and adopted by the General Conference. The UNESCO Recommendations, which have a general character, set the main lines agreed within the international community in response to modern challenges.

Other documents

In addition to legal documents, the General Conference endorsed two documents of a declarative character. The Québec’s Call for Action: Internet and the Radicalization of Youth, the final document of the conference co-organized by UNESCO in Canada (Québec, 2016), focusing on preventing violence and violent extremism online, was adopted as a UNESCO document. Proposed by Italy and unanimously adopted by the UNESCO Executive Board, the Appeal on Protecting Culture and Promoting Cultural Pluralism: the Key to Lasting Peace is connected to the implementation of UNESCO Strategy on the protection of culture and cultural pluralism in situations of armed conflicts. This document concerns the inclusion of culture to international humanitarian policy and peacekeeping missions, in line with the 2347 Resolution of the UN Security Council.

A separate resolution was adopted on a more comprehensive implementation of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the means of prohibiting and preventing the illicit import, export and transfer of ownership of cultural property.

Furthermore, the General Conference recognized as a UNESCO document, the Kazan Action Plan, adopted by the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (MINEPS VI) in July 2017.

Updates were made to the internal strategic documents of UNESCO.

The Strategy for the reinforcement of UNESCO’s action for the protection of culture and the promotion of cultural pluralism in the event of armed conflict was extended to include the issues tied to natural disasters.

The UNESCO Strategy for action on climate change was oriented more then before towards interdisciplinary scientific cooperation aimed at relieving the outcomes of changes and adapting to the ongoing processes. Realizing the Strategy engages all programme sectors, however, the key role in this process is played by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission and programmes such as the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme.

A proposal by the UN General Assembly to proclaim 2019 The United Nations International Year of The Periodic Table of Chemical Elements was endorsed.

The conclusions from the 10th Youth Forum (Paris, 25–26 October 2017), preceding the session of the General Conference, were discussed in the context of all sectors' programme, considering a wider inclusion of young people to the works concerning UNESCO, including those on the national level.

New initiatives:

International Day of Light

Proclaiming the International Day of Light to be celebrated on the 16 May, was a follow up to the International Year of Light (2015) which proved that the subject of light and its uses in many aspects of human life and many branches of science, education and art can become a source of numerous interdisciplinary initiatives stimulating the multifaceted cooperation.

16 May was chosen as a date of the first demonstration of the laser by the American researcher Theodore H. Mainmann.

The celebrations organized since 2018 aim to highlight the role of science and technology in meeting all the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda Goals, mainly those which aim at improving the quality of life, health care, sanitary conditions, providing access to modern energy sources and safe living conditions. Proclaiming the International Day of Light also aims to raise awareness of a number of negative impacts of using light-based technologies on humans and nature, including the phenomenon of light pollution.

The role of sound in the contemporary world

For the first time, the General Conference has pointed out to the role of sound for humans and the environment, noticing its positive and negative aspects (including the harm caused by noise). Thus, UNESCO has joined the circle of international organizations which deal with sound from various perspectives: the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The General Conference called for extra budgetary resources to take action in this area.

Anniversaries to be celebrated under UNESCO auspices

The General Conference approved the proposals of the celebration of two anniversaries with which UNESCO could be associated: the 200th anniversary of the birth of Stanisław Moniuszko, submitted by Poland, Lithuania and Belarus (2019), and the 50th anniversary of the death of Krzysztof Komeda (2019). In total, there will be 48 anniversaries celebrated under UNESCO auspices in the years 2018–2019. ●

Aleksandra Wactawczyk



41st session of the World Heritage Committee in Kraków

The World Heritage Committee met in Kraków from 2 to 12 July 2017, during the session chaired by Professor Jacek Purchla, in the following composition: Angola, Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Tanzania, Tunisia, Turkey, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. The Polish delegation was headed by Prof. Piotr Gliński, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and National Heritage, and in his stead – by Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO.

From the perspective of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, the following topics visibly surfaced at the session in Kraków: the need to take into consideration the intangible aspects



41st session of the World Heritage Committee in Kraków.
Photo: © Paweł Suder/National Heritage Board of Poland

of tangible heritage in case of cultural landscapes, the question of preserving tangible remains in sites of memory, and the specific conditions for reconstructing destroyed heritage which determines the cultural identity of communities.

New inscriptions

21 new sites were inscribed on the World Heritage List: 3 natural sites and 18 cultural sites. In four cases, the Committee approved proposals to extend the existing sites to include areas located in the same country or in other countries. Three properties in Africa were inscribed – in Angola, Eritrea and South Africa; for the two former countries, these were their first inscriptions. The World Heritage List has been thus enriched by cultural landscapes, archaeological sites, urban centers, sites of memory, and natural areas. Serial properties in various countries were inscribed: Venetian fortifications and Beech forests. As a result of the discussion, it was also decided to inscribe a site of industrial heritage in Poland: Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System, recognizing the pioneering hydro-technical solutions implemented there.

Natural properties:

- Los Alerces National Park (Argentina)
- Qinghai Hoh Xil (China)
- Landscapes of Dauria (Mongolia / Russian Federation)

Cultural properties:

- M'banza Kongo. Vestiges of the Capital of the former Kingdom of Kongo (Angola)
- Valongo Wharf Archaeological Site (Brazil)
- Temple Zone of Sambor Prei Kuk, Archaeological Site of Ancient Ishanapura (Cambodia)
- Kulangsu, a Historic International Settlement (China)
- Venetian Works of Defence between the 16th and 17th Centuries: Stato da Terra – Western Stato da Mar (Croatia, Italy, Montenegro)
- Kujataa Greenland: Norse and Inuit Farming at the Edge of the Ice Cap (Denmark)
- Asmara: A Modernist African City (Eritrea)
- Taputapuātea (cultural and maritime landscape with a former political center, ceremonial center and burial site in French Polynesia) (France)
- Caves and Ice Age Art in the Swabian Jura (Germany)
- Historic City of Ahmadabad (India)
- Historic City of Yazd (Iran)
- Sacred Island of Okinoshima and Associated Sites in the Munakata Region (Japan)
- Hebron/Al-Khalil Old Town (Palestine)
- Tarnowskie Góry Lead-Silver-Zinc Mine and its Underground Water Management System (Poland)

- Assumption Cathedral and Monastery of the town-island of Sviyazhsk (Russian Federation)
- Khomani Cultural Landscape (South Africa)
- Aphrodisias (Turkey)
- The English Lake District (United Kingdom)

Extensions and significant modifications to the boundaries:

- Ancient and Primeval Beech Forests in the Carpathians and Other European Regions of Europe (Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and Ukraine). This was an extension of the “Primeval beech forests of the Carpathians and ancient beech forests in Germany” (Germany, Slovakia, Ukraine)
- W-Arly-Pendjari Complex (Benin, Burkina Faso). Extension of the W National Park in Niger
- Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar, Dessau and Bernau (Germany). Extension of the previous inscription “Bauhaus and its Sites in Weimar and Dessau”
- Strasbourg, Grande-Île and Neustadt. Extension of the inscription to include the Neustadt district (France).

Thus, the number of properties inscribed on the World Heritage List has increased in 2017 to 1073. In the cases in which the opinion of the Committee’s members differed from the recommendations of the Advisory Bodies, the decisions were made consensually, based on in-depth discussion. The atmosphere of dialogue and cooperation, created by the way the chairman of the session moderated the debate, aided those tasks. In one case – the simultaneous inscription of Hebron into both the World Heritage List and the List of World Heritage in Danger – the decision was made by voting. The tendency to undermine the recommendations of Advisory Bodies concerning the nominations – such as the recommendation to inscribe, to refer in order to complete the dossier or to defer the nomination with the reapplication of the full procedure – has intensified. On the 41st session, the change of the draft decision concerned as many as ten cases.

The List of World Heritage in Danger

As a result of the decisions made on the 41st session, there are currently 54 sites inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The ones that remain on it include, among others, all sites inscribed on the List that are located in countries affected by armed conflicts.

Two sites were withdrawn from the List of World Heritage in Danger, both from Africa: Komoe National Park (Ivory Coast) and Simien National Park (Ethiopia).

The area of the inscription entitled Bagrati Cathedral and the Gelati Monastery was narrowed down to exclude the Gelati Monastery. Due to the fact that the danger was related to the infringement of the conservation rules while restoring the Bagrati Cathedral, the Gelati Monastery was removed from this List.

A new, although frequently discussed over the recent years, inscription on the List of the World Heritage in Danger, was the Historic Centre in Vienna.

New initiatives

In Kraków, Poland reaffirmed the declaration made in Istanbul on the readiness to organize an international conference on the issues of recovery and reconstruction of World Heritage sites destroyed during armed conflicts or natural disasters. Such conference took place in Warsaw on 6–8 May 2018 (*see page 41 for more on this topic*).

Considering new initiatives proposed by Poland, Kraków went down as the place where, for the first time, on the occasion of World Heritage Committee session, the managers of World Heritage sites from all over the world have met together. The World Heritage Site Managers Forum which addressed the need to exchange experiences and deepen knowledge, was highly appreciated by the participants. Today, management is an essential dimension of the conservation of World Heritage sites, which means that the managers should have the best possible access to the constantly expanding knowledge on the implementation of the Convention. This initiative was raised by the organizers of the subsequent session. The second Site Managers Forum took place as a side event of the 42nd session of World Heritage Committee in Manama (Bahrain).

The session in Kraków proved to be a breakthrough in the dialogue with non-governmental organizations. Within his prerogatives, the president of the 41. session of the Committee, Professor Jacek Purchla, gave the representatives of non-governmental organizations an opportunity to present their opinions about the sites under discussion. On the initiative of Poland, representatives of non-governmental organizations could discuss the possibilities of cooperation and future solutions aimed at a broader involvement of NGOs in the World Heritage protection. A meeting “For a structured dialogue with civil society” was held, organized by the National Heritage Board of Poland and the Europa Nostra association, in cooperation with the Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee. It started a process to be continued at the next sessions. Unlike the subsequent UNESCO conventions, the 1972 Convention ascribes a relatively small role to the local communities and non-governmental organizations. The conclusions of the meeting were reflected in the Committee’s decision regarding the implementation of the Convention.

This decision resulted in consultations with non-governmental organizations undertaken after the session by the World Heritage Centre. In March 2018, at the initiative of the WWF, a meeting was held with representatives of NGOs, members of the World Heritage Committee and States Parties to the Convention, as well as the World Heritage Centre and UNESCO Advisory Bodies, during which

discussions took place on the possibilities of improving the existing cooperation mechanisms and strengthening the involvement on the part of the organizations that represent the civil society for the protection of the World Heritage.

It is worth noting that during the session in Kraków, basing on a previous decision, the International Forum of Indigenous Peoples for World Heritage was established, which aims to be a platform for cooperation in areas of identification, protection, and management of World Heritage sites.

The leading idea of the side events organized by Poland was to bound the Polish experiences of reconstructing Warsaw with expressing solidarity with the countries whose heritage has suffered as a result of wars or natural disasters. One of these events was devoted to the role of documentation in reconstruction on the example of the archives of Warsaw Reconstruction Office, inscribed on the UNESCO Memory of the World List.

As a part of the relief campaign for the residents of Aleppo, a charity concert "Solidarity with Aleppo" was held on Bulwar Wołyński in Kraków.

The session was preceded by the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum with representatives of 32 countries, organized by the International Cultural Centre and the Polish National Commission for UNESCO (*see the article on page 32 for more about the Forum*).

The session in Kraków gathered around 3000 people, including many representatives of Polish and foreign media. It was a large undertaking which covered many side events in addition to the debates.

The preparations, led by Professor Magdalena Gawin, the Deputy Minister of Culture and National Heritage, engaged the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage in cooperation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior and Administration, Ministry of the Environment, Ministry of Sport and Tourism, the authorities of Kraków and the Małopolska Province, as well as various institutions. A role of main coordinator in the organization of the event was played by the National Heritage Board of Poland. The session was organized in cooperation with the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in Paris. •

AW

Professor Jacek Purchla – Chairperson of the World Heritage Committee

(October 2016–November 2017)

With Poland as the host of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee, the Committee's chairmanship was entrusted to a representative of Poland. This honorable and challenging function was taken up by Professor Jacek Purchla, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and Director of the International Cultural Centre in Kraków. The members of the World Heritage

Committee elected Professor J. Purchla at its 40th session in Istanbul, in July 2016. In practice, his mandate started at the end of the second part of the session which took place in Paris, in October 2016, and lasted until November 2017. On the 12th extraordinary session of the World Heritage Committee in Paris, on 15 November 2017, Professor Jacek Purchla handed over his function



Prof. Jacek Purchla, Chairperson of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee and Dr Mechthild Rössler, Director of the UNESCO Division for Heritage and Director of the World Heritage Centre, during the plenary session.
Photo: © Bartłomiej Banaszak/National Heritage Board of Poland

to a new chairperson, Sheikha Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa from Bahrain.

World Heritage Committee

The World Heritage Committee is the executive body of the UNESCO Convention concerning the World Cultural and Natural Heritage. Its full name is the Intergovernmental Committee for the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage. The World Heritage Committee consists of representatives of 21 States Parties, elected at the General Assembly sessions. The Committee is supported in its activities by the UNESCO World Heritage Centre, which acts as the Secretariat of the Convention. The World Heritage Centre, existing since 1992, is a part of the UNESCO Secretariat in Paris. Now, its director is simultaneously the director of the Division for Heritage. Three international organizations advise UNESCO on the matters of World Heritage: the International Council on Monuments and Sites ICOMOS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature IUCN, and the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property ICCROM.

Sessions of the World Heritage Committee constitute milestones in implementing the Convention. It is at these meetings that the Committee makes a number of general decisions related to the direction of further works. It also annually examines the state of conservation of the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List where various types of risks are identified. Due to time limitations, only up to 150 such cases are considered each year, including all sites from the List of World Heritage in Danger. The debates of the World Heritage Committee regarding new inscriptions are the most closely monitored worldwide. This is possible also thanks to the live streaming of the debates.

The basis for the decisions made by the Committee is the text of the UNESCO Convention, the regularly updated Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention, as well as the Committee's Rules of Procedure.

All decisions are made by the World Heritage Committee at annual sessions, which take place in various places around the world and currently last for about 10 days. The sessions are attended by

delegates from 21 Member States of the WHC, as well as observers – representatives of the States Parties, international organizations, various NGOs and accredited journalists.

World Heritage List

The World Heritage List has been successively created since 1978. Among the first inscriptions, made at the second session of the World Heritage Committee in Santa Fe, were the Historic Centre of Kraków and Wieliczka Salt Mine. The World Heritage List includes cultural properties, mixed properties and natural properties. After the 41st session of the WHC in Kraków, there were 832 cultural, 35 mixed (cultural and natural) and 206 natural sites in 167 countries inscribed on the List. The World Heritage Committee encourages countries to keep a balance in terms of geographical and thematic representation, in line with the "Global Strategy for a Representative, Balanced and Credible World Heritage List".

Individual properties are inscribed on the List on the basis of at least one out of ten criteria, specified in the "Operational Guidelines". For each of the properties, in cooperation with the State Party and the Advisory Bodies, a Statement of Outstanding Universal Value is adopted, which is a brief summary concerning the international importance of the property. For earlier inscriptions, the Statement of OUV is approved retrospectively. It is a crucial document determining the values that are subject to unconditional protection and is the reference point for the assessments of the state of a given site's conservation. Within one category of World Heritage properties, the reasons for recognizing their Outstanding Universal Value may significantly differ. In addition to the description which refers to the approved criteria, the Statement of OUV refers to authenticity, integrity and management of the site.

List of World Heritage in Danger

The List of World Heritage in Danger is created as a part of the World Heritage List. The World Heritage Committee may inscribe on it sites for which a serious or a potential threat has been identified in relation to the values defined in the Statement of Outstanding Universal Value. The

threat may be caused by human activity or natural risks. The types of threats are specified in the “Operational Guidelines” (paragraphs 179–180).

In the case of cultural properties, the threats include, for example, serious deterioration of materials, structure, architectural or town-planning coherence, urban or rural space as well as significant loss of historical authenticity or cultural significance. A potential threat can be connected with modification of juridical status of the property diminishing the degree of its protection, lack of conservation policy, threatening effects of town planning, outbreak or threat of armed conflict, threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.

In the case of natural properties, an existing threat may be related to a serious decline in the population of the endangered species resulting from environmental or human factors (e.g. poaching), severe deterioration of the natural beauty or scientific value of the property resulting from, for example the construction of water reservoirs, industrial and agricultural development including use of pesticides and fertilizers, major public works, mining, pollution, logging, firewood collection, etc. as well as human encroachment on boundaries or in upstream areas which threaten the integrity of the property. A potential threat may result from a modification of the legal protective status of the area, planned development projects, outbreak or threat of armed conflict, an inadequate management system, threatening impacts of climatic, geological or other environmental factors.

Each case is thoroughly analyzed. The decision about the inscription on the List of World Heritage in Danger is preceded by explanatory actions carried out in close cooperation with the State

Party. If the Committee decides on the inscription, corrective measures are adopted. The desired state of conservation is also specified, which, when achieved, allows the removal of a given site from this List. Contrary to the general opinion, the Committee’s decision to inscribe a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger does not constitute a sanction, but primarily demonstrates the willingness to cooperate on the part of the international community. In such case, an opportunity arises to receive experts assistance and funds from the World Heritage Fund.

General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention

In the case of the 1972 UNESCO Convention, all decisions regarding the implementation of this international multilateral instrument are made by the World Heritage Committee. The General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention, held every two years during the session of the UNESCO’s General Conference in Paris, determines procedures and selects new members. It adopts the report on the activities of the World Heritage Committee and discusses general issues related to the implementation of the Convention. At the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the Convention (14–15 November 2017), Professor Jacek Purchla presented a report on the World Heritage Committee’s last two years’ activities, particularly underlining the results of the 41st session in Kraków (see pp. 27–31). ●

AW

Address of Professor Jacek Purchla

to the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties
to the World Heritage Convention in Paris

Introduction

It is a great privilege for me to be here with you on the occasion of the 21st session of the General Assembly of States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our newly elected Director-General, Madame Audrey Azoulay. I wish her strength, wisdom and persistence in her new mission.

I would also like to express my gratitude to the departing Director-General, Ms. Irina Bokova, for her commitment and devotion to UNESCO, and for leading the Organization for the past eight years, which was a particularly difficult period.

I am very honoured to be able to address this Assembly and present my report in my capacity as chairperson of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee.

This report takes stock of the main activities conducted and decisions taken by the World Heritage Committee since the 20th session of the General Assembly, which was held in 2015. The document on which this report is based is document 39C/REP19, which has already been presented to the General Conference. Therefore, if you allow me, I will proceed with a brief presentation of this information, focusing on the input of the 41st session.

Statutory Information

As of May 2017, there are 193 States Parties to the World Heritage Convention. Since the 20th General Assembly in 2015, South Sudan and Timor-Leste have joined the Convention.

Dear Colleagues, as you know, in the course of the present session, the General Assembly will elect 12 new members to the World Heritage Committee.

Allow me first, then, to express my gratitude to the 12 outgoing members – Croatia, Finland, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, and Vietnam – for their service on the Committee and support in implementing the World Heritage Convention.

Information connected with the Strategic Objectives for the implementation of the World Heritage Convention

Ladies and Gentlemen, the report of the World Heritage Committee to the General Conference is based on the Committee's 5 Strategic Objectives, and I am pleased to report accordingly as follows:

Regarding the CREDIBILITY of the World Heritage List, since the last session of the General Assembly in 2015, 42 properties have been inscribed on the World Heritage List. The total number of properties on the World Heritage List as of July 2017 is 1073 (832 cultural, 206 natural, and 35 mixed) located in 167 States Parties. The total number of properties on the List of World Heritage in Danger as of July 2017 is 54.

Concerning the effective CONSERVATION of World Heritage properties, it is to be noted that a total of 310 State of Conservation reports, including 103 reports on properties inscribed on the List of World Heritage in Danger, were examined during the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee (Istanbul/UNESCO, 2016) and the 41st session held in Kraków last July. These reports occasioned in-depth debates and reflection, in cooperation with the Advisory Bodies, on the subject of Conservation, which is, and should remain, at the very heart of the Convention. It has become clear that there is a need for insightful discussion on matters arising in connection with conservation of both sites already inscribed on the List and new nominations. We must remember that proper conservation of World Heritage Sites is a major factor in propagating best practices for cultural and natural heritage protection on a much wider scale. I might recall that debate at the last session brought to the fore issues including conservation of intangible aspects of tangible heritage in the case of cultural landscapes, preservation of remnants at sites of memory, and reconstruction of heritage crucial to the cultural identity of a given community and destroyed as a result of armed conflict or natural disasters.

Promotion and development of effective CAPACITY-BUILDING in States Parties, as well as increased involvement of local **COMMUNITIES**, also featured strongly in our discussions. On this subject, the Committee at its 40th and 41st sessions was informed of capacity-building work undertaken by the World Heritage Centre and Advisory Bodies, in close cooperation with States Parties, to strengthen regional and national institutions responsible for heritage protection. I am very pleased that the session in Kraków articulated the significance of three major actors for World Heritage: site managers, the civil society, and young people.

The Site Managers World Heritage Forum, organized for the first time, on the initiative of the host country, offered a platform for heritage professionals to address issues incumbent on the inscription on the World Heritage List and to exchange experiences.

This session represented an important step towards empowering representatives of the civil society within the forum of the World Heritage Committee. The side event *For a structured dialogue with civil society* opened up the discussion among non-governmental organizations and initiated the process of channelling their voices towards partnership and airing constructive proposals for future cooperation in the best interests of heritage conservation. In this regard, the Committee in its decision 41 COM 7 “encourages States Parties and civil society organizations to continue exploring possibilities for civil society to further contribute to the enhanced conservation of heritage on the site and national levels, and provide relevant input into the heritage-related debate at the global level”.

During the session in Kraków, the International Indigenous Peoples’ Forum on World Heritage was established as a platform for involvement in the identification, conservation and management of World Heritage properties.

And finally, young people. Young people are our future. The young experts from 32 countries who attended the World Heritage Young Professionals’ Forum in Poland entitled *Memory: Lost and Recovered Heritage* proved that World Heritage sites will remain in good hands in years to come – these are wise and thoughtful people who care about both value and substance. I strongly believe that education can be a remedy for ignorance – the ignorance that is the enemy of intercultural dialogue. Education for heritage today is not a niche subject but a NECESSITY.

I hope that these topical discussions initiated during the 41st session will be continued and that they will bring about structural solutions beneficial for all World Heritage Sites.

With regard to AWARENESS RAISING AND COMMUNICATION, statistics show that the World Heritage webpage attracts 40% of all visits to the UNESCO website, a fact which reflects the high level of global interest in World Heritage. Moreover, the number of visitors to this site has seen a significant increase over the past two years. The visibility of World Heritage issues has been also boosted by a significant number of relevant publications over the same period.

Other key activities of the World Heritage Committee

Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to mention also that during its last two sessions the World Heritage Committee discussed matters of Governance, notably examining the recommendations of its ad hoc working group, which has been meeting regularly since 2015. I have no doubt that the steps already taken in this area will enhance strategic decision-making and participation by

States Parties, and ultimately improve and streamline the working methods of the Governing Bodies of the 1972 Convention. Please note that there is an item on Governance and related matters on the Agenda of this General Assembly. I hope as well that the ad hoc working group's recommendations concerning the sustainability of the World Heritage Fund will be addressed adequately and will strengthen the implementation of the Convention significantly. Furthermore, over the past two years, major steps have been taken towards revising the Operational Guidelines, notably in the areas of nominations and Tentative Lists. The Policy on integration of the sustainable development perspective into the processes of the World Heritage Convention, which was adopted by the General Assembly at its 20th session, has also developed over the intervening years. The Committee now endeavours to mainstream sustainable development in all its work wherever appropriate, including in its statutory processes, in operational projects, and in capacity-building activities.

Conclusion

Dear Colleagues, before I finish, I would like to make some general remarks regarding my experience as chairperson of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee. I have been both honoured and proud to be party to the discussions on the implementation of one of the most important normative instruments in the field of culture. My time as chairperson has been inspiring and enriching. I have pursued my mission in the cause of the World Heritage Convention to the best of my ability.

However, we cannot ignore the fact that these are difficult times for our world. Cultural and natural heritage are facing unprecedented challenges and threats. Natural disasters, deliberate destruction of heritage, intolerance, and violence are sadly all elements of our contemporary reality and need to be taken into account in our debates and decisions. We have already taken important steps in condemning acts of destruction that endanger peace, and we have made strong engagements for better protection of cultural and natural heritage.

One consequence of these threats is the increasing number of inscriptions of sites on the List of World Heritage in Danger. In this context, I would like to stress once again that inscribing a site on the List of World Heritage in Danger enables the Committee to alert the international community as a whole to these situations, so that all States Parties can work together to save these endangered sites.

However, the List of World Heritage in Danger is unfortunately all too often perceived as a degrading "red list", and many States Parties are still reluctant to see their properties inscribed on it. I would like to remind all States Parties once again that the List of World Heritage in Danger should never be considered a sanction; it is a system established in order to optimize our response to specific conservation needs.

Thus there is a lot still to be done to define a coherent, coordinated response to these challenges and threats. Uniting in respect for all peoples and cultures of the world is the only way we will succeed in this endeavor and overcome these trials.

Furthermore, Ladies and Gentlemen, allow me to reiterate what I said on the occasion of the closing of the 41st session of the Committee, last July in Kraków. In that speech, I voiced my concern at the way political consideration within our meetings are taking precedence over expertise and technical and scientific-based decisions which should be adopted in a spirit of dialogue and mutual understanding. This is a very serious matter that is endangering not only our work but also the credibility of this Committee and of the Convention, undermining the spirit and values inscribed into our work.

Nevertheless, while I can only regret the politicization of our debates, we have also registered some remarkable improvements over the past few years. Perhaps most notably, a series of actions have been taken to enhance and facilitate dialogue, communication, transparency and accountability throughout the nomination processes. In particular, consultation and dialogue between Advisory Bodies and States Parties during the evaluation period have been improved in order to enhance transparency and optimize subsequent decision-making by the Committee. However, in order to maintain the credibility of the Convention as well as the essential concept of Outstanding Universal Value, much greater effort is still needed to avoid what can be seen as the increasing and systematic rejection of Advisory Bodies' recommendations. Therefore, I would like to repeat once again that we should do our utmost to ensure that our debates and discussions are held and decisions taken in a spirit of cooperation and transparency, and the Operational Guidelines are fully respected.

Thank you for your attention.



Young Professionals
World Heritage Forum

World Heritage Young Professionals Forum

The World Heritage Young Professionals Forum (WHYPF) preceded the 41st World Heritage Committee session in Poland in July 2017. It focused on the frequently discussed problem of the limits to the reconstruction of heritage and was meant as an invitation for young specialists to participate in the debate on this subject. Hence the title of the Forum: “Memory. Lost and Recovered Heritage”.

The Youth Forums have been accompanying important UNESCO events for years as a way of preparing the young generation to engage in joint international activities, being as such a part of UNESCO’s mission, to discuss the practical role and application of the conventions and other adopted documents in solving current global issues.

In recent times, many sites across the world have been destroyed as a result of natural disasters, but also by human action, during armed conflicts. Both pose a challenge to protecting heritage. That is why Poland, as the host of the 41st session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee, has decided to share with the international community its key experiences of reconstructing architectural monuments and the urban environment destroyed during World War II. The most important example of the work of our conservators is the reconstruction of the Historic Centre of Warsaw after its complete deliberate demolition in August 1944. This experience was recognized as particularly important in the context of the ongoing war in Syria, the images of which, showing the ruins of Aleppo, constantly accompanied the meeting.

32 young heritage specialists from countries forming the World Heritage Committee: Azerbaijan, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, Tanzania, Tunisia, Vietnam and Zimbabwe, as well as from Belarus, Czechia, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, India, Iraq, Lithuania, Mali, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Syria, Turkey and Ukraine took part in the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum. The programme of the Forum covered



Reading out of the Young Professionals Forum Declaration.
Photo: © Beata Zawrzel/International Cultural Centre
in Kraków

a broad spectrum of issues related to protecting urban heritage. The participants visited Warsaw and Kraków, cities which play particularly symbolic roles in the history of Poland. The historic centers of these two cities have been inscribed on the World Heritage List for entirely different reasons; hence they can serve as two complementary examples of the ways of approaching the conservation and management of urban heritage.

Warsaw, the capital of Poland, suffered a deliberate annihilation during the armed conflict, because of its role as a political and national symbol. The reconstruction of the city and its subsequent memory as a community experience was necessary for the society to overcome the trauma of the war and to stimulate the country's development. The material reconstruction of the city was driven by the inner strength and determination of citizens, who themselves reconstructed their heritage. It was an unprecedented event in the world's history, which met with international recognition through inscribing the Warsaw Old Town – as the only reconstructed historic city centre – on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1980.

The WH Youth Forum began in the Royal Castle in Warsaw, which is an excellent showcase of the Polish conservation school. The Forum activities continued in the Warsaw Rising Museum and at the

Monument Interpretation Centre of the Museum of Warsaw, where the participants learned about Polish history and where workshops were held on the issues connected with the destruction of the city. In the Royal Łazienki Museum, the young professionals became acquainted with techniques of conservation and the principles of managing historic parks, and they planted together a tree there as a living memorial of the 2017 WHYPF.

The time spent in our country combined study visits and workshops, with the support of a group of experts. The participants visited the historic city center of Kraków, a symbol of national identity based on the cultural heritage, both tangible and intangible, and the city's constant, uninterrupted development, against the backdrop of the turbulent history of Poland. In Kraków they also learned about the revitalization and reconstruction of the former Jewish district of Kazimierz. They took part in the simulation of the World Heritage Committee session devoted to the Historic Centre of Kraków. Other topics of interest were: the adaptation of the Benedictine Abbey in Tyniec near Kraków to the requirements of modern times, and the management of the Wieliczka Salt Mine, inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Currently, all these sites are exposed to threats connected with heritage management, which



Young Professionals Forum participants in the Kraków Congress Centre.
Photo: © Beata Zawrzel/International Cultural Centre in Kraków

mainly result from the development of mass tourism, the commercialization of their social function, and the management policy, focusing mainly on leisure and entertainment.

Hence, one of the essential elements of the 2017 WHYPF was a debate on the role of heritage in the life of contemporary societies. The young people realized how severely the destruction of heritage affects the social fabric, and how crucial is the community's role in its preservation. In light of the achievements of the Polish conservation school, the role of conservation in protecting heritage was also discussed.

The experience gained during the organized visits, together with the review of the newest research and recommendations regarding the conditions of authenticity and integrity of monuments, according to the World Heritage Convention, helped the participants to jointly hammer out a Declaration, which expressed the concern and sense of responsibility of the young generation for preserving the world's urban heritage. The Declaration was read during the inauguration of the 41st session of UNESCO World Heritage Committee, on 2 July 2017.

One of the specially important and interesting parts of the Forum were the presentations directly

connected with the Forum's topic, based on the examples from the participants' home countries. Among the most moving ones were devoted to the destruction of Palmyra and the tombs in Timbuktu.

The participants of the 2017 WHYPF were aged 22 to 32 and were selected through a competition. From the perspective of their careers, the Forum was an opportunity to broaden their knowledge of implementing the World Heritage Convention, the work methods of the World Heritage Committee, and improve the opportunities and challenges related to the protection, conservation and reconstruction of the selected sites inscribed on the World Heritage List for their Outstanding Universal Value. For each participant, the Forum was an unforgettable and amazing adventure; an opportunity to create friendships which, thanks to social media, are still alive now and developing. The participants composed a closely-knit, curious, kind and committed group. The WHYPF, organized under the patronage and with support of the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, was prepared by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the International Cultural Centre in Kraków.

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Participants of the WHYPF planting a memorial tree in the Royal Łazienki Park in Warsaw.
Photo: © Beata Zawrzet/International Cultural Centre in Kraków

World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2017 Declaration

We, the participants of the UNESCO World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2017 “Memory: Lost and Recovered Heritage”, would like to express our gratitude to the President of the Polish National Commission, Professor Dr. Jacek Purchla, Chairperson of the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee and Dr. Mechtild Rössler, Director of the UNESCO World Heritage Centre. We would also like to thank the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the International Cultural Centre in Krakow for organizing the Forum, and the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage of the Republic of Poland for the financial support. Furthermore, our special thanks go to the executive team and the groups of experts for their outstanding and relentless efforts.

Emphasizing the fundamental value of universal peace, enshrined in the Constitution of UNESCO from 1945, and noting the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goals 11 and 16, we express our strongest concern about the destruction of heritage. We believe in the importance of joint efforts in protecting the heritage of Outstanding Universal Value and for developing sustainable societies;

Highlighting the mnemonic potential of World Heritage and firmly believing that memory sites are tangible evidence of cultural significance, in our turbulent world;

Convinced that preserving the identity of a property requires respecting the multitude of evolving ideas, values, practices, and perspectives relating to its history;

Remembering that without people there is no community and without memory, there is no possibility for sustainable development, it should be a duty of every State Party to put people in the centre of its Sustainable Development Goals;

Stressing that the opinion of local communities, indigenous peoples, artisans and youth should be an important factor when deciding on the conservation or reconstruction of cultural heritage;

Acknowledging cultural diversity and the importance of heritage sites for the respective local communities, their involvement in any decision about recovery, reconstruction and further use of heritage sites is of crucial importance, it is imperative to base the reconstruction of what is lost, in the community’s present sense of belonging.

Further stressing the importance of relying on the authentic sources, in order to avoid the appropriation of memory for political interests or “aggressive nationalism” there should be limits to reconstruction, *primum non nocere* (first, do no harm), based on the existing values of the communities;

Recalling that memory is dynamic, therefore space may be made for the new memories of future generations.

We, young professionals, as custodians of World Heritage, are strongly committed to our intergenerational and transnational responsibility of preserving World Heritage. We call on:

I. UNESCO:

- as guardians of the Heritage Conventions, to consider promoting an integrated approach to safeguarding and recovery, preparedness and resilience combining tangible and intangible heritage, culture and nature;
- in welcoming the efforts to include civil society and indigenous peoples into discussions and processes of the 1972 Convention, to further strengthen these efforts, especially concerning the inclusion of Youth.

II. International community:

- to make local communities the keystone of any decision-making process relating to discussions on cultural identity and memory, as well as post-disaster management.

III. States Parties:

- to protect heritage shared across borders, among others, by prioritizing transnational serial nominations and itineraries to the World Heritage List, to facilitate the bridging of cultures, local communities and nations;
- to facilitate innovation, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship, for sustainable recovery processes through creating conducive conditions for lean management and green energy and facilitating Youth employability in the field of heritage;

- to implement educational activities and establish participation mechanisms for local communities, with a special attention to minorities, indigenous peoples, marginalized groups, people with disabilities, and Youth.

To support these efforts we, the participants of the Young Professionals Forum, 2017 commit ourselves:

- to use the tools and innovations of our generation to maximize our potential and efforts, in the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation, equality and mutual respect;
- to actively take part in discussions about social/collective memory in order to transmit cultural values to preserve our cultural diversity and to take on the responsibility to constantly reflect on the values of our heritage considering current and future contexts;
- to be, in view of current events, a driver of peace, intercultural tolerance and international dialogue and to oppose any form of political, cultural or other extremism against people and their natural and cultural: tangible and intangible heritage.

Dziękujemy!

2 July 2017

Polish Archaeology for the Safeguarding of World Heritage



The wall surrounding a settlement from the 3000 BC period, excavated by the Polish expedition on the Tell Rad Shaqrah site in Syria.

Photo: © PCMA / A. Reiche

From the very beginning of the formation of the so-called Polish school of Mediterranean archaeology, that is, since the turn of the 1950s and 1960s, its founder, Professor Kazimierz Michałowski attached great importance not only to developing Polish research excavations in the Middle East, but also to conserving and rescuing endangered historical complexes. The best example of this kind of Polish activities in this period is the participation in the UNESCO International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia as an emergency action, during which our archaeologists and conservators saved, among others, the famous paintings from the cathedral in Faras in Sudan. During almost 60 years of existence of Michałowski's Station of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw and its successor, the Polish Center of Mediterranean Archaeology, Polish archaeologists conducted research also outside Egypt and Sudan: in Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait and Oman. Throughout this period, the participation in rescue projects related to large investments in the Middle East was one of the important elements of the activity of Polish archaeologists.

First, at the end of the seventies, a wave of international rescue excavations started in Iraq, in areas that were supposed to be flooded by artificial lakes at the dams built on the rivers: Diyali, Euphrates and Tigris. In 1979, under the direction of Professor Stanisław Kozłowski, research began on the Tell-el-Saadiya site on the Diyala River, where a settlement from the times of the Chalcolithic Ubaid culture was excavated. After two research seasons, however, the work was interrupted by the outbreak of the Iraqi-Iranian war, as the front-line zone came close to the site. In parallel with the excavations on Diyala, work began on a small island of Bijan on the Euphrates

River, which was to be sunk after the construction of the Hadith dam. At Bijan, the expedition, initially led by Prof. Michał Gawlikowski and then by Dr. Maria Krogulska, discovered the ruins of an Assyrian fortress and the remains of later buildings from the Partia and Early Islamic period. In the flood area of the third dam, built on the Tigris River near the city of Eski Mosul, Polish archaeologists began their research in the spring of 1984. Excavations were conducted under the direction of Dr. Piotr Bieliński on two adjacent sites, one of which was Tell Rijim, which contained remains of various cultures spanning from late pre-history, through a burial site of the Ninevite 5 culture and a settlement of the Khabur ware culture, to a Neo-Assyrian settlement. There were three seasons of research conducted there, the last of which was interrupted by the damming up of the Tigris waters. The second Polish archaeological mission was also active in the same area, directed by Prof. Kozłowski, who investigated the early-Neolithic site of Nemriq. Because of their location further from the riverbed, the excavations could have been carried out much longer; thanks to this, a fragment of an exquisitely preserved Pre-pottery Neolithic settlement was uncovered.

The Polish archaeologists also conducted rescue projects in Syria, more specifically, in its north-eastern part, where the Syrian archaeological authorities had organized an international research campaign tied to the construction of a dam on the Khabur River near the city of Hassake. As part of this project, in the years 1988-1995, the Polish mission, first under the leadership of Dr. Maria Krogulska, and then Prof. Piotr Bieliński, examined three sites in the flood basin: Tell Abu Hafur, Tell Djassa el-Gharbi and Tell Rad Shaqrah. On all three, layers from the 3000 BC period were revealed. On the first two sites, due to the filling of the reservoir, the excavations ended after only three seasons, but on the third one, they could have been continued longer. This allowed unearthing of a large fragment of a fortified settlement with well-preserved remnants of construction activity from that period.



Professor Piotr Bieliński cleaning the stone floor in a house from the Chalcolithic Ubaid culture (end of 600 BC period) on a Bahra site in Kuwait.

Photo: © Dorota Bielińska

The above-mentioned projects in Iraq and Syria were rescue missions in the full meaning of the term. In a few cases, archaeologists were documenting the discovered relics of the past, literally checking how quickly the approaching water would force them to hastily leave their positions. Thanks to these missions, however, many valuable fragments of cultural heritage could have been “rescued” for science, which would have otherwise perished without a trace. Our archaeological activity in Iraq and Syria, however, was not limited only to saving the endangered heritage. Regular excavations were carried out, among others, in the famous Hatra in Iraq (Prof. Michał Gawlikowski), in Syria on the multicultural site of Tell Arbid (Prof. Piotr Bieliński), in Hawarte near Hama, where a Mithraeum was excavated (Prof. Michał Gawlikowski), and finally, in the ruins of ancient Palmyra. On this last site, the Polish excavation was started as early as 1959 by Prof. Kazimierz Michałowski, and with the exception of a single war break, there were annual research campaigns carried on there until 2011, the last 38 of which under the direction of Prof. Michał Gawlikowski. The research in Palmyra was a special challenge for Polish archaeologists, not only research-wise but also in terms of conservation and reconstruction.

The archaeological excavations in Palmyra started as early as the interwar period; some restoration works had taken place even before the Polish archaeologists arrived, aimed at, among others, reconstructing the ruined walls, using the stone blocks that had fallen from them, re-erecting the fallen columns, and placing on them the capitals which had been found next to them. In fact, the ancient fragments, which were undisputedly related to the original construction, were not the only elements used in such works. After Syria regained its independence, such works were carried out under the supervision and in cooperation with the Syrian antiquity service staff. One of such reconstructions, based on the design of Dr. Antoni Ostrasz, a Polish architect with significant experience in archaeology, is the tetrapylon standing in the large colonnade of Palmyra. Polish



Cleaning of ruins of a sanctuary from the 2000 BC period on the Tell Arbid site in Syria. Photo: © Dorota Bielińska

archaeologists, who initially conducted research in the western part of the city, have unearthed there, among others, the temple of goddess Allat with a crumbled statue of the goddess and a very large bas-relief depicting an antelope resting between the paws of a lion, placed at the entrance to the temple circle. Both the statue of the goddess Allat, which is identified with Athena in Palmyra, as well as the lion relief were reconstructed and preserved by the Polish conservators. This other sculpture, placed at the entrance to the museum in Palmyra after the reconstruction, quickly became somewhat of a symbol of ancient Palmyra. It was probably also the reason why it fell victim to the barbaric destruction performed by Islamists after they took Palmyra over. Due to its size and weight, it was not evacuated and consequently, it shared the fate of most of the monuments that remained in the Palmyrenian museum. Therefore, when Palmyra was recaptured by government forces, the Polish conservators, upon request, set out to help the Syrian archaeological authorities. The lion bas-relief, together with many other relics found in the rubble of the museum were transported to the National Museum in Damascus, where they were reconstructed and placed in the garden surrounding the Museum.

While the individual destroyed monuments from the Palmyrenian museum collection can possibly be restored, the ruins of the ancient city itself remain a much more complex problem. Not only were the fragments of the great colonnade destroyed, but, above all, so was the main temple of the ancient city – the temple of Bel. The sanctuary, quite well-preserved and partially reconstructed, got completely destroyed by Islamists. Its reconstruction cannot even be attempted, as most of the original stone blocks are missing. Should we therefore “rebuild” – or rather build again from scratch – the monuments that had previously already been ruins? What to do in the case of “ruins” or entire objects, which had been already “tweaked” in the past? To what state exactly should they be restored? In the present times, when many historic sites have been destroyed to a greater or lesser extent in Syria and Iraq, this question gains a special importance. We must remember that it is about the heritage of certain countries and nations that often build their modern identity around it, and at the same time about the heritage that has had a significant impact on our civilization, and thus constitutes a common good of humanity. ●

Piotr Bieliński

Professor Dr hab. Piotr Bieliński works at the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw. He is a specialist in the history and archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syro-Palestine and the Persian/Arab Gulf Basin. For over 40 years, he has been leading Polish archaeological expeditions in Iraq, Syria, and lately in Kuwait and Oman. From 2017, he is a member of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Former Dean of the Faculty of History at the University of Warsaw and later Director of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology at the same university. Member of several scientific councils and committees of the Polish Academy of Sciences, as well as member of editorial boards of several scientific journals in Poland and abroad. Member of the UNESCO International Coordination Committee for the Safeguarding of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq.



The Challenges of World Heritage Recovery. International Conference on Reconstruction in Warsaw

Despite the tragic experiences of two world wars in the twentieth century, during which entire cities were razed to the ground, in recent years, the world opinion still becomes shocked at the news of the barbarian destruction of generations' cultural heritage of Aleppo, Mosul, or previously Timbuktu and Dubrovnik. As in the times of both world wars, these places were ruined as a result of barbaric armed conflicts and terrorism. Damage is also caused by natural disasters, such as the earthquake that destroyed the complex of temples in the Kathmandu Valley. Similarly to previous cases, the will of the people is to restore these

places to life, so that they can become again tangible witnesses of culture, and, as such, strong symbols of identity for the local inhabitants. It was so in the case of Warsaw, deliberately razed to the ground by the Nazis in 1944, and later rebuilt, to become, as a remembrance monument, the foundation of future development. The Old Town in Warsaw, as an instance of reconstruction, was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1980, becoming an example of exceptional conservation activities applied to an entire, living, urban historical complex. In this way, Warsaw's success brings hope to other cities facing reconstruction



The Conference participants. Photo: © Danuta Matloch/Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

that seek to return to their former state, which were inscribed on the World Heritage List before being destroyed, due to their value, authenticity and integrity. One wonders: is it possible to repeat the Warsaw example today? Would not the challenge of reconstruction be contrary to the provisions of the 1972 UNESCO Convention and the Operational Guidelines to this Convention? Article 86, devoted to authenticity, refers to the justified reconstruction of archaeological remains, monuments or historic districts only in exceptional circumstances and only on the basis of complete and detailed documentation. Today, however, we would add that documentation also includes the eye-witness accounts of destruction. It is worth noting here that the documents for the reconstruction of Warsaw contained all these elements, including the accounts of professors Stanisław Lorenz and Jan Zachwatowicz. Due to its uniqueness, the archive of the Office for Reconstruction of the Capital from the State Archives of the Capital City of Warsaw was inscribed on the international Memory of the World Register in 2011.

The attempts to answer the above questions and the need to reflect on the principles of revitalization, reconstruction or rehabilitation systemic activities aimed at cultural heritage and congruent with the spirit of the UNESCO Convention, have become an urgent challenge. Recognizing the need to help in finding the adequate solutions and the opportunity to share its experience with others, Poland, together

with the World Heritage Centre, undertook the organization of an international UNESCO conference entitled “The Challenges of World Heritage Recovery. International Conference on Reconstruction”. The initiative of organizing the conference was approved at the 40th session of the World Heritage Committee in Istanbul and confirmed at the 41st session of this Committee in Kraków. The conference was organized by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the National Heritage Board of Poland and the World Heritage Centre in Paris, in cooperation with the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS, the Royal Castle in Warsaw - Museum, the Royal Łazienki Museum, the Warsaw Rising Museum, the Warsaw Monument Conservator, the History Meeting House, and the Monument Interpretation Centre.

The place chosen for this important debate was Warsaw. The conference was held on 6–8 May 2018 and, what is especially symbolic considering the discussed problems, took place in the halls of the Royal Castle, which was rebuilt from ruins thanks to the effort and professionalism of generations of Polish conservators. During the ceremony in the Royal Łazienki Museum, preceding the conference, the guests were greeted by, among others: Prof. Piotr Gliński, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Culture and National Heritage; Prof. Michał Kleiber, Vice-president of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; Prof. Jadwiga Łukaszewicz, President of the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS;



Press conference. (From left): interpreter; Dr Mechtild Rössler, Director of the UNESCO Division for Heritage and Director of the World Heritage Centre; Prof. Magdalena Gawin, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage; Prof. Jadwiga Łukaszewicz, President of the Polish National Committee of ICOMOS; Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Photo: © Danuta Matloch/Ministry of Culture and National Heritage



Prof. Michał Kleiber, Vice-President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO welcoming participants of the Conference. Photo: © Danuta Matloch/Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

and Prof. Zbigniew Wawer, Director of the Royal Łazienki Museum.

The conference was attended by, among others:

Prof. Magdalena Gawin, Deputy Minister of Culture and National Heritage, General Conservator of Monuments; Dr. Mechthild Rössler, Director of the UNESCO Division for Heritage and Director of the World Heritage Centre; Prof. Toshiyuki Kono, President of the ICOMOS International; and Francesco Bandarin, former longtime UNESCO Assistant Director-General for Culture. The Royal Castle hosted about 200 participants: representatives of international organizations and experts of these organizations, as well as experts from the cities inscribed on the World Heritage List that have suffered destruction in recent times. For the first time in the capital of Poland, representatives of UNESCO, ICOMOS, ICCROM, UNISDR, the World Bank, and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises met to discuss issues related to reconstruction in World Heritage properties.

Five thematic panels held discussions between over 20 speakers from Syria, Bahrain, Iraq, Mali, Haiti, Japan, India, Italy, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the United States, United Kingdom, Barbados, Ukraine, Ecuador, Nepal, Estonia, Poland, and others. The panels were devoted to the following issues:

- Integrative Approach to Recovery – Challenges and Opportunities. Theory and Methodology (moderated by Francesco Bandarin, former UNESCO ADG for Culture);

- The Processes of Recovery — Taking Stock of the Past Experiences: Documentation (moderated by Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO);
- History and Memory (moderated by Prof. Kamil Zeidler, University of Gdańsk, member of the ICCROM Council);
- Communities and Cultural Rights (moderated by Dr. Christopher Young, World Heritage expert);
- The Challenges of Urban Heritage Recovery (moderated by Joseph King, Director of Sites Unit, ICCROM).

It is worth noting that the discussions undertaken by experts participating in the panels referred to a great extent to the issues addressed at the World Heritage Young Professionals Forum, which preceded the 41st session of the World Heritage Committee in 2017. The Forum, debating under the title “Memory: Lost and Recovered Heritage”, was organized by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, together with the International Cultural Centre. The meeting of young specialists from 32 countries, different regions of the world, has become a very successful discussion forum on the restoration and preservation of heritage damaged as a result of armed conflicts and natural disasters. At the inauguration of the 41st session of the WHC in Kraków, a World Heritage Young Professionals Forum 2017 Declaration was presented, in which, among others, attention was brought to the need for joint efforts on a global scale to protect the cultural heritage and raise awareness of the



Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO moderating discussion of Panel 2. Photo: © Danuta Matloch/Ministry of Culture and National Heritage



Panel 5. (From left): Joseph King (ICCROM); Dr Magdalena Marcinkowska, Deputy Director of the Monuments Preservation Department, Ministry of Culture and National Heritage; Prof. Ihsan Fethi Abdulrazag; Giovanni Fontana Antonelli; Prof. Giulia Annalinda Neglia. Photo: © Danuta Matloch/Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

value of culture, its diversity and social symbolic value, as well as for urgent opposition to ignorance through raising the level of education.

A significant achievement of the conference at the Royal Castle was the adoption of the Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage, which included the principles of conduct during the restoration of destroyed cities and urban areas through the reconstruction of tangible heritage, but also taking into account the intangible heritage of a given community. Attention was also drawn in the document to the key role of education and awareness-raising regarding the value and diversity of cultural heritage.



Conference discussion. (From right) Francesco Bandarin and Prof. Ihsan Fethi Abdulrazaq. Photo: © Danuta Matloch/Ministry of Culture and National Heritage

The document drafted at the Warsaw conference contains rules of conduct that should be followed in the reconstruction in World Heritage properties, but also introduces a general approach to the perception of the historic substance, that takes into consideration a number of factors regarding the character of intangible heritage and social circumstances of symbolic and community significance. These principles are based, among others, on: respecting the values recognized by the international and local community and authenticity, in particular of the physical substance; taking into account the needs of communities that have experienced the trauma of losing their heritage, history and identity; the need to work out a compromise between the needs of the community – people's desire to quickly return to their homes and previous life, and the need to dedicate time

to reflection on the appropriate preparation for the reconstruction process; the need to undertake actions in a spirit of reconciliation that will allow the local community to regain cultural identity and the memory of places important for its nurturing. A significant attention is also attached to the importance of collecting and analyzing comprehensive documentation, which had played such an important role in the reconstruction of Warsaw and was important when making decisions regarding reconstruction more than 70 years ago. Similarly, it is now recommended – highlighting the compliance with the 1972 Convention – to conduct reconstructions based on the conservation doctrine, which aims to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of the properties. The management of the reconstruction process should be thus based on a coordination of inter-institutional cooperation with the involvement of domestic and foreign entities, and the planning of a long-term strategy for the reconstruction of the historic urban landscape on many levels, taking into account the approach set out in the UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (2011). One of the most important issues is education on all levels, aimed at counteracting the ignorance that underlies the acts of barbarism, and awareness-raising directed at preventing armed conflicts and the consequent destruction of cultural heritage.

The document was adopted and recommended for widespread dissemination during the 42nd session of the World Heritage Committee in Bahrain, in June 2018. ●

Sławomir Ratajski

Warsaw Recommendation on Recovery and Reconstruction of Cultural Heritage

1. We, the 200 participants from more than 30 countries, representing different regions of the world, including institutions from Poland, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, ICOMOS, ICCROM, the World Bank, UNISDR and UNESCO, gathered at the Royal Castle of Warsaw, on the occasion of the International Conference on Reconstruction “The Challenges of World Heritage Recovery” (6-8 May 2018), wish to express our gratitude and acknowledge the generous hospitality and intellectual leadership of the Polish authorities and of the City of Warsaw for providing a forum to reflect on the principles that should govern the recovery and reconstruction of World Heritage properties following armed conflict or disasters caused by natural hazards, as requested by the World Heritage Committee in its Decision 41 COM 7, adopted in Krakow in July 2017.

2. Recognizing the City of Warsaw, which provided the venue for the Conference, as being the most relevant and inspiring context to our deliberations, considering the tragedy of deliberate destruction it has suffered during World War II and the subsequent exemplary reconstruction of its historic centre, evidence of the strength of the spirit and determination of the Polish people to recover their cultural identity, as recognized through the inscription of the “Historic Centre of Warsaw” on the World Heritage List in 1980 and the inclusion of the “Archive of Warsaw Reconstruction Office” (BOS Archive) on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register in 2011.

3. Being deeply concerned by the growing impact of armed conflicts and disasters on important cultural and natural heritage places, including World Heritage properties, which in recent years have resulted in their widespread destruction on a scale similar to that of World War II, notably within historic urban areas and archaeological sites.

4. Condemning in the strongest terms, the numerous intentional attacks on cultural properties and in general the perpetration of all policies of ‘cultural cleansing’ aimed at erasing diversity, inciting sectarian violence and preventing the affected population from realizing their human rights, including cultural rights.

5. Being cognizant of the relevant international legal instruments and established doctrine in the field of cultural heritage and, within the context of the World Heritage Convention¹, of the need to ensure that any reconstruction be undertaken only in exceptional circumstances, while protecting the Outstanding Universal Value of the concerned properties and meeting the test of authenticity and conditions of integrity.

6. Recognizing, at the same time, the legitimate aspiration of concerned communities to overcome the trauma of conflicts, war and disasters by reconstructing as soon as possible their cities and villages – and particularly their affected cultural heritage – as a means to reaffirm their identity, restore their dignity and lay the conditions for a sustainable social and economic recovery.

7. Considering, moreover, that the recovery of the cultural heritage lost or damaged as a result of armed conflict offers unique opportunities, notably within the context of stabilization processes, to foster mutual recognition, promote dialogue and lay the ground for reconciliation among all components of society, particularly in areas characterized by a strong cultural diversity and/or hosting important numbers of refugees and/or internally displaced people, which will lead to new approaches to recovery and reconstruction in the future.

8. Appreciating as well, through recent experiences of heritage recovery in countries affected by armed conflict and disasters, the review of numerous past case studies and the outcomes of several meetings

¹ The English and French versions of the Convention are available on the website: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

and workshops on the topic held in many parts of the world, how closely connected cultural heritage is with humanitarian, security and peacebuilding concerns and why it should not be considered in isolation from other broader social, economic and environmental issues in the context of post-conflict or post-disaster recovery and reconstruction policies and plans.

9. Mindful of Art. 5 of the World Heritage Convention, calling on States Parties “to adopt a general policy, which aims to give cultural and natural heritage a function in the life of the community”, and of the 2015 Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective in the Processes of the World Heritage Convention², are convinced that each generation has the right to contribute to human legacy and to the wellbeing of present and future generations, including through adaptation to natural and historic processes of change and transformation.

10. Conscious also of the new possibilities offered by evolving technologies, in particular for very high-definition 3D digital recording and reproduction of material attributes of cultural heritage properties, and of the ethical challenges that this poses in relation to their possible reconstruction.

11. Considering that further guidance is required to assist States Parties, site managers, practitioners and communities through the multi-faceted challenges that reconstruction brings, with due consideration given to its social and economic context, the short- and long-term needs of properties, and the notion of Outstanding Universal Value (OUV).

To this end, and based on the discussions at the Conference, we propose the following non-exhaustive set of principles:

Terminology

In post conflict and post disaster situations, the overall goal is the recovery of the society. This aims at the consolidation of peace and security and at restoring or improving the economic, physical, social, cultural and environmental assets, systems and activities of an affected community or society, aligning with the principles of sustainable development and “build back better”. An essential part of this process is the recovery of a place’s heritage, which may include reconstruction.

The term “reconstruction”, in the World Heritage context, is understood as a technical process for the restitution of destroyed or severely damaged physical assets and infrastructure following an armed conflict or a disaster. It is important to stress, in this regard, that such reconstruction of physical assets must give due consideration to their associated intangible practices, beliefs and traditional knowledge which are essential for sustaining cultural values among local communities.

Values

Prior to taking any decision on a proposal for recovery and reconstruction of a heritage place, it is essential to understand the values, which justified its inscription on the World Heritage List and the related attributes. It is equally essential, at the same time, to understand – and integrate in the reconstruction process – the values identified in the heritage property by local communities, including new values resulting from the traumatic events associated with the destruction, together with the corresponding physical attributes and related intangible cultural practices and traditional knowledge. Assessment of authenticity should take account of the recognized values of the property in accordance with the 1994 Nara Document on Authenticity³, emphasizing both material and other aspects.

Conservation doctrine

Decisions on recovery and reconstruction should take into consideration conservation doctrine that aims to protect the Outstanding Universal Value of properties. Since the 1990s, there has been a doctrinal shift towards intangible dimensions as a result of the introduction of the concept of cultural landscapes and the 1994 Nara Document on Authenticity. The emergence of these intangible associations needs to be consolidated within existing conservation doctrine.

Communities

Decisions on recovery and reconstruction should follow people-centred approaches and fully engage local communities and, where appropriate, indigenous peoples, as well as other relevant stakeholders. Recovery and reconstruction should enable people to connect to their heritage, identity and history.

² The English and French versions of the document are available on the website: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/sustainabledevelopment/>

³ The Nara Document is a part of Operational Guidelines – Annex 4: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/> (8.08.2017)

In reconstructing heritage, consideration should be given to social justice and property titles and a rights-based approach should be applied, which would ensure full participation in cultural life, freedom of expression and access to cultural heritage for all individuals and groups, including refugees and internally displaced people, where relevant. In this regard, it is important to identify cultural rights and their holders in every reconstruction programme, and to ensure their prior and informed consent to key decisions, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Operational Guidelines for the Implementation of the World Heritage Convention⁴ and the 2015 Policy on the Integration of a Sustainable Development Perspective in the Processes of the World Heritage Convention.

Allowing time for reflection

While recognizing people's need to return at the earliest opportunity, sufficient time should be allowed for reflection before decisions are made within a gradual and additive approach, taking into consideration the evolving nature of values post-trauma, the challenges of ensuring a fully inclusive and participatory process of consultation and the complex interrelations between heritage and other societal needs in the context of post-conflict and post-disaster recovery and reconstruction.

Resilience, Capacities and Sustainability

Building resilience is essential to address destruction and disasters. In reconstructing heritage following an armed conflict or a disaster, it is critical to reduce existing structural and social vulnerabilities, including by building back better, and to improve quality of life, while retaining cultural values as much as possible. It is also essential to invest in long term capacity building in disaster risk management and conservation techniques, notably for craftspeople, in order to provide for a sustainable future of the heritage places.

Memory and Reconciliation

Memorialization of the destruction should be considered for communities and stakeholders; this could be done through site interpretation or presentation, keeping selected remains of destruction for remembrance, education and tourist

information, as appropriate. In the context of post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, such places should integrate as much as possible a shared narrative of the traumatic events that led to the destruction, reflecting the views of all components of the society, so as to foster mutual recognition and social cohesion, and establish conditions for reconciliation.

Documentation

Proper documentation and inventories, including documentation of building methods, is key for a successful reconstruction of cultural heritage and for ensuring that it protects the Outstanding Universal Value and meets the test of authenticity and conditions of integrity. Documentation and its regular updating, making the most of the possibilities offered by new technologies, are essential features of all site management so that in the event of disaster, the records are available as a basis for response post-trauma. It is important also to document activities during and after reconstruction. This process should not limit itself to the physical aspects of buildings, sites and collections, but capture as well the social and economic relations between these and the associated communities. In cases where no technical documentation is available, traditional knowledge and communal memories associated with the site, as appropriate, could also be used to guide reconstruction. It is important also to document the decision-making process during reconstruction, for future record.

Governance

The key to a successful reconstruction of cultural heritage is the establishment of a strong governance that allows for a fully participatory process, is based on a comprehensive analysis of the context and on a clear operational strategy, including mechanisms for the coordination of national and international actors, and is supported by an effective public communication policy. In this process, it is essential that concern for cultural heritage is integrated in policies and plans of other sectors involved in the recovery and reconstruction effort, including housing, infrastructure, economic development, education and communication, amongst others, through the appropriate inter-institutional coordination mechanisms.

⁴ The English and French versions of the document are available on the website: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/guidelines/>

Planning

It is critical to develop heritage recovery and reconstruction projects within the larger urban planning context, giving consideration both to physical attributes and to the web of relations and uses with which they are associated. There are a variety of planning tools available for the development of special plans and projects for the recovery and reconstruction of heritage. Particularly useful, in the urban context, is the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL)⁵ approach. Authorities should use such tools to develop guidance for local owners on matters such as materials, typologies and colours, in order to set out an overall approach to recovery and reconstruction of cultural heritage, while allowing for flexibility in the process. Planning strategies for heritage reconstruction should also give consideration to investing as a priority in the rehabilitation of public open spaces, as anchors around which communities can be engaged in decisions about the future of their cities. It is also important that any planning framework should pay full attention to issues of ownership and legislation.

Education and awareness raising

One important way to prevent the destruction of cultural heritage and support its recovery post-conflict and disaster is to promote the knowledge and appreciation of – and respect for – the diversity of cultures and heritage, notably through educational programmes at all levels and awareness raising initiatives.

We address the following recommendations:

To the World Heritage Committee

Develop guidance for reconstruction and recovery at World Heritage sites, including Resource Manuals, further development of case studies and best practice examples, taking into account the principles listed above.

To the States Parties to the World Heritage Convention

Use the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL) and integrated management approaches to achieve a holistic approach to reconstruction for post disaster recovery.

To the Advisory Bodies

Consider the clarification of conservation doctrine as it applies to reconstruction by reviewing the substantial body of charters, declarations and recommendation, further development of case studies as well as by providing specific advice to States Parties, as necessary.

To UNESCO, the World Bank, and other UN and International bodies

Reaffirm that cultural and natural heritage, including World Heritage, is an essential and integral part of recovery and the growth of sustainable communities towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development, and ensure accordingly the necessary international coordination mechanisms.

Warsaw, 8 May 2018

⁵ UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape in English and French version is available on the website: <https://whc.unesco.org/en/hul>

A modern approach to reconstruction in the theory of conservation

Systemic protection of monuments is a discipline that has existed for over two centuries. Over this time, a significant progress has been made. The idea of protecting monuments is widely accepted by the public, the historical monument protection systems are included into the activities of modern states, and the protection of monuments itself is based on theory of conservation. As a result, in many countries, the heritage has been identified (according to its current understanding) and placed under various forms of protection.

At the same time, however, contemporary protection of heritage is in an increasingly difficult position. The changing concept of heritage (leading to a significant enlargement of the definition of heritage) and a radical change in the context of its conservation (primarily, the recognition of the right of stakeholders to decide on the ways of protecting monuments), have led to growing contradictions and conflicts. Over the last decades, the approach to the principles and

forms of monument protection has been radically changing. Heritage and its conservation is seen from two competing perspectives. Because of the time of their formulation, they can be called the traditional and the contemporary perspective.

In the traditional approach, the historical monument was treated as object having its ontological status, values and users. As a result, it was argued that the principles and forms of dealing with heritage should be determined by its values. The historical object was considered to be an objectively existing document from the past, the value of which is proportional to its authenticity and integrity. In the modern approach heritage is perceived subjectively. Heritage is, of course, a work/product from the past, however, it can be used today. Thus, it is the modern users that have the right to decide on the rules and forms of dealing with heritage, or rather on the way it is used.

Out of the many features differentiating the traditional and contemporary approach to heritage, the key ones have been presented in Table 1. below:

TABLE 1. FEATURES THAT DIFFERENTIATE THE TRADITIONAL AND CONTEMPORARY APPROACH TO HERITAGE

	Traditional approach	Contemporary approach
Ontological status	historical object is an element of the past	heritage is an element of the present
Aim of action	protection of historical values	making use of the monuments and their values
Decision-makers	monument conservators	users

The table shows that the key difference between the traditional and modern approaches lies in a different central element on which the approach to the monument and its protection is based. In the traditional approach, the central element is the heritage as the document of the past (the object) while in the modern approach it is its present user (the subject) that stands at the centre. All components of the system are adapted to this central element: value assessments, goals, principles and measures.

The current situation in conservation of cultural heritage is defined as the paradigm shift phase. This means that there are currently two coexisting approaches to heritage, and none of them has been declared as mandatory. In practice, there are attempts to reconcile and build a compromise between these two approaches in the modern systems of heritage protection. It turns out, however, that it is not easy, and the future might show that it is not possible.

The presented dilemma also applies to the debate about reconstruction. This is confirmed by the title of the conference which took place in Warsaw on 6–8 May 2018: “The challenges of World Heritage recovery. International conference on reconstruction”. These two key terms contained in the title are defined in the conference’s background document (2.1 Defining the Terms – Taxonomy):

Recovery can be defined as a set of strategies used to assist communities to rebuild themselves after a disaster occurs.

The definition of reconstruction includes the action or process of reconstructing or being reconstructed; a thing that has been rebuilt after being damaged or destroyed.

These definitions show that recovery is oriented towards *communities*, namely, the widely understood stakeholders (subject), whereas *reconstruction* relates to the *thing*, that is the historical object. This distinction is absolutely crucial, as it renders the other elements of the created system distinct. In simple terms, one can say that in the process of *recovery*, the heritage itself, together with its values, the theory of conservation and conservation specialists play an instrumental, yet lesser role, whereas in the process of *reconstruction*, their role is of the highest importance.

Here, it is worth to recall that the heritage protection specialists – architects, archaeologists, art historians, construction engineers – have little professional competence to conduct social processes. However, they are professionally trained to plan and conduct reconstruction. Therefore, it can be concluded that the theory of conservation which deals with defining heritage, its objectives, principles and forms provides information on reconstruction, but only limited information/tools that allow for standardizing the recovery process (social process). Therefore, if the perspective of the social process is adopted in the protection of heritage, there is a serious risk that conservators will have to limit the question of reconstruction to a mere creation of a catalogue of case studies.

Meanwhile, specialists in charge of heritage protection require normative guidelines. This is precisely the role of theory of conservation. By adopting such approach and premises, a number of aspects of reconstruction can be presented from the point of view of the theory of conservation.

Conditions of reconstruction

The first issue is the complexity of the context in which reconstruction should be analyzed. The simplest definition of reconstruction can be as follows: reconstruction is a recreation of a historical object that has been destroyed (does not exist). However, such a definition limits the perception of reconstruction only to the material existence of a historical object. Thus, by adopting this definition, one can conclude that reconstruction – as a technical conservation activity based on recreating the material form of the object – can be assessed independently of the object and the circumstances in which this activity is carried out. This approach, however, seems too restrictive.

In practice, when analyzing the conditions of heritage reconstruction, at least four elements must be considered (factors affecting the assessment of reconstruction):

- the monument (subject of reconstruction)
- reconstruction (technical activity regarding the destroyed monument)
- circumstances of the monument’s destruction
- circumstances of the monument’s reconstruction

Bearing in mind these four elements, which affect the validity and the assessment of reconstruction, a question should be asked whether this system of interdependent (to a large extent) factors can be limited to only one of them, with the omission of the other three.

In the past – throughout the 20th century – the conservation theory would give a positive answer to this question. The primary value was given only to one element – the monument; furthermore, the ontological status of the monument was determined by its uniqueness. Thus, the monument was not just an old building, but above all a historical document, which should be treated as a work of art. As a result, the ultimate value of the monument is its authenticity. What is more, the monument should be authentic in all its aspects: substance, form, performance, location, function, etc. That is why reconstruction, as an action inherently incapable of creating a monument which meets all aspects of authenticity, was not accepted. The circumstances of destruction and reconstruction – mentioned above as the third and fourth elements – were not formally taken into account. In practice, however, when the circumstances of the destruction were exceptional – for example, in cases of intentional destruction of the monument during the war – reconstruction was undertaken and the monuments were recreated. Of course, the value of the recreated monument was not the same as that of the authentic monument.

The contemporary approach to monuments is also changing the approach to reconstruction. Treating them as subjects makes it impossible to overlook the circumstances of their destruction and reconstruction. This means that in a system consisting of four elements which define the value of a monument, none of them is in principle paramount versus the others. This is in line with the current approach, which has replaced the concept of the monument with a much broader concept of heritage. As a consequence, the ontological status of heritage (contemporary concept) differs from that of the historical monument (traditional concept).

In fact, historical objects have only very rarely met all the conditions of authenticity. That is why – disregarding the circumstances of their destruction

and reconstruction – the justification to maintain the privileged value of the monuments lessened when the subjective treatment of heritage emerged. Thus, the legitimacy of excluding reconstruction as a method of permitted conservation activity (in relation to the destroyed heritage) is expiring.

Such an approach forces entails a change in the philosophy of conservation. The universal rule to proscribe reconstruction must be replaced with an individual analysis that covers all the aforementioned elements – the monument, the circumstances, and the methods of operating. Therefore, the general conclusion regarding the contemporary approach to heritage is that there are no restrictions on any conservation work, except for the individual context (object, value, circumstances). This means that the contemporary conservation theory is unable to form an unambiguous assessment of reconstruction – neither a positive nor a negative one.

Historical and contemporary ruins

The impact of the circumstances of the monument's destruction on its protection is well illustrated by the handling of ruins. In conservation of cultural heritage, ruins are historical objects which have been significantly destroyed. The term "ruin" is used for all historical objects that have been destroyed, are incomplete, devoid of function or illegible. On the other hand, from a technical point of view, it can be accepted that a destroyed object/complex is a ruin when most (or all) buildings and rooms have lost cover (roofs and ceilings).

There are many different types of historical ruins; very often reconstruction is one of the concepts of their protection. It can even be said that most of the reconstruction concerns ruins, because, in practice, completely destroyed objects are rarely recreated. Thus, reconstruction, in fact, concerns various types of ruins. Of course, the above-mentioned arguments – primarily, the lack of authenticity – make the traditional theory of conservation exclude the recreation/reconstruction of ruins.

The conservator's way of handling a ruin, namely the proscription of its reconstruction, was formulated only on the basis of its preservation/destruction state. Meanwhile, it is clearly visible in the case of

ruins that other factors are also important, especially the circumstances of the object's destruction. Thus, the factors that differentiate ruins, which will also determine the methods of conservation work, should be listed as follows:

- period of destruction
- cause of destruction
- documentation of the original appearance
- type of building
- technical condition / extent of damage and incompleteness
- the period of object's creation

Based on the presented criteria, we can justify distinguishing two groups: "historical ruins" and "modern ruins". Such distinction allows capturing the key differences.

The presented list of criteria clearly demonstrates that modern ruins and historical ruins are other entities. Thus, what follows is that in the case of "modern ruins", the state of destruction is temporary, unnatural; it is the complete state that is the natural state, all the more so when complete and reliable information on its historical form is available.

In the case of "historical ruins", the state of destruction is a permanent and natural state. An unnatural state would be a complete building (rebuilt); even more so when information about its historical form is lacking. Meanwhile, in the theory of conservation, there is no formal difference in dealing with destroyed ruins that would depend on

their characteristics.

The difference between historical and modern ruins also means that other conservation rules should apply to them. In the case of modern ruins, reconstruction can be undertaken, while historical ruins should be secured in the form of so-called permanent ruins.

Terminology

Another important issue concerning damaged (and reconstructed) monuments, is terminology. There is no universal glossary of conservation terms in heritage protection. Several dozen of the most commonly used notions have no precisely defined meanings, i.e. semantic fields. They are used intuitively, and the lack of precision is further blurred by the fact that in various doctrinal documents, the same concepts are defined in various ways. Meanwhile, the precision of terms, or the use of a common language, is an obvious condition for creating a theory of conservation that will normalize the practice. It seems possible and necessary to define a number of concepts that will reflect significant differences in dealing with damaged historical objects.

In order to characterize historical objects perceived as material means of conveying diverse values, the key features are authenticity and integrity. Hence, the terms describing the technical details of dealing with damaged historical objects should refer

TABLE 2. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MODERN AND HISTORICAL RUINS

Criterion	Modern ruin	Historical ruin
Period of destruction	In the memory of the living generations, the ruin was a complete object.	Destruction occurred beyond the memory of living generations.
Cause of destruction	Sudden, short-term circumstances of an exceptional nature (explosion, fire, catastrophe, flood).	Natural, long-term process of destruction (could be preceded by sudden circumstances).
Documentation of the original appearance	Full or significant documentation.	No documentation or only fragmentary (unreliable) one
Type of building	No significance.	Mainly military and sacral objects.
Extent of damage (and incompleteness)	Different types of object elements preserved (perimeter walls, stairs, ceilings, finishing elements, architectural decor).	Only fragments of structural elements preserved – often only the fragments of structural walls.
Period of object's creation	No significance.	At least a century (mostly medieval objects).

to historical/authentic matter. From this point of view, we can distinguish four types of characteristics and activities, as presented in table 3.

The presented terms describe different forms of activities, which result from various circumstances in which the damaged monuments find themselves. Importantly, these terms create a coherent system. Applying them allows naming and differentiating specific situations in which the damaged objects exist.

A consistent application of these terms is, therefore, another element that, as part of the theory of conservation, can help in organizing the handling of damaged historical objects.

Summary and conclusions

In order to summarize the selected aspects of reconstruction observed from the perspective of contemporary theory of conservation, it is worth referring to two issues: the assessment of the value presented by the reconstructed/rebuilt monument and the possibility of inscribing the reconstructed assets on the World Heritage List.

When assessing the value of a rebuilt object, it is necessary to remind once again that in the traditional theory of conservation, only the authentic object had value; thus, the reconstructed object did not represent the values which would define a monument. That is why reconstruction was not a conservation activity. However, the

contemporary understanding of authenticity is much broader. Thanks to this, the object that is materially inauthentic (rebuilt) can be considered as cultural heritage, because it represents other values. Of course, this does not mean the blurring of differences between values. The principle of the authenticity of a material/substance remains paramount. Thus, the reconstructed historical object is not identical with the object before destruction; the reconstruction of the destroyed object is, therefore, the beginning of the next phase in its history. Such an approach allows taking into account additional factors, such as, for instance, the circumstances of the destruction of the object, which can become a part of the overall set of values which it carries.

In some cases, the circumstances of the object's destruction may even dominate over the set of values carried by it (Warsaw's Old City, the Genbaku Dome in Hiroshima, gas chambers in Auschwitz). Depending on their interpretation, they can be an argument in favour of its reconstruction (Mostar), or on the contrary – decisive for leaving the object in ruins (gas chambers).

Therefore, it can be concluded that the destruction of a historical object creates a new situation from the point of view of assessing its value. In the value assessment, four elements should be taken into account: the monument, the circumstances of its destruction and reconstruction, and the principles

TABLE 3. ACTIVITIES APPLIED TO DESTROYED HISTORICAL OBJECTS.

Activity name	Characteristics	Examples
Anastylosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> fragments of historical object are restored using the original elements minor modern additions resulting from static requirements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> objects from Antiquity made of large stone elements
Restitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreation of historical object using many dispersed authentic elements (including architectural decor) modern additions dominate over authentic elements; historical form of object is restored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royal Castle in Warsaw
Rebuilding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreation of historical object that has been destroyed in a recent, sudden, one-off circumstance the form of historical object is accurately recreated based on complete and reliable documentation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frauenkirche, Dresden
Reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> recreation of historical object that was destroyed in more distant past the form of historical object is hypothetical (there is no complete or reliable documentation) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> reconstructing medieval castles preserved in ruin form

of its reconstruction. A summary analysis of the values in these four aspects should form the basis for the decision to rebuild the historical object. However, it should be added that, so far, no methodologies or schemes have been developed in theory of conservation which would allow making such assessments.

The second issue, namely, the assessment of reconstruction in the context of the World Heritage List, consists of two cases. The first case comes down to deciding whether it is allowed to inscribe rebuilt goods on the World Heritage List; the second one is about deciding whether it is allowed to rebuild destroyed places that have already been inscribed.

In the first case, an analysis is required that will reveal whether the rebuilt place meets all the conditions required for the inscription on the World Heritage List. At the same time, it is possible that it is precisely these other aspects – the circumstances of the destruction or reconstruction of the asset – that will form the basis of its OUV (Outstanding Universal Value). Does the object retain its values despite the reconstruction? And, if yes, can the reconstruction be a part of these values? In such cases, reconstruction should be highlighted as an important element in this place's history as was the case with the inscription of the Warsaw Old Town on the World Heritage List.

In the other case, an analysis has to be carried out to assess to what extent the OUV have been destroyed. Can the reconstruction – and if yes, than what kind of reconstruction – recreate/complement the OUV of the destroyed property? Of course, all properties are different, which means that each of them has different characteristics of its universal values. Therefore, the question is not whether the objects that are on the World Heritage List can be reconstructed, but whether the damage has affected its OUV and, if yes, can reconstruction restore them?

Therefore, the question whether the reconstruction of a property inscribed on the World Heritage List is possible, is not the right question. Reconstruction is only one of a broad range of activities which can be applied to monuments. The discussion about reconstruction in 2018, after nearly 1100 properties had been inscribed on this List, has to be different

than the one in the times when the first rules regarding World Heritage were formulated. New realities, immense diversity of cultural heritage properties, and the variety of circumstances of their protection have to be all taken into account. This also extorts the verification of the principles and forms of protection in relation to the collection of the most valuable properties, namely, the World Heritage. Therefore, instead of universal principles of conservation, it is necessary to describe the conditions and procedures that should be applied in conservation of cultural heritage, including the cultural sites inscribed on the World Heritage List.

Finally, the following conclusions can be made:

- reconstruction can be considered an acceptable way of dealing with a destroyed monument (this is determined by the characteristics of the object, the circumstances of the destruction, the method of reconstruction),
- the key factor determining the reconstruction should be the assessment of the values of which the reconstructed object will be the means of conveying (it is necessary to perform such an analysis),
- theory of conservation provides recommendations on dealing with a destroyed monument that regulate reconstruction as a technical activity,
- reconstructed objects should not be excluded *a priori* from the World Heritage List (an assessment of value and circumstances of its destruction is required; it is also from this perspective that the questions regarding the recovery and reconstruction of the World Heritage properties should be approached). •

Bogusław Szmygin

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Poland elected member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage

Poland was among the 12 States Parties newly elected to the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage. The elections took place at the 7th session of the General Assembly of the States Parties to the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, which was held on 4-6 June 2018 at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris.

The Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage plays a key role in the implementation of the Convention on the international level and it examines nominations submitted by States Parties for the inscription on the three international Lists: the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding and the Register of Good Safeguarding Practices.

The Committee is also in charge of providing international assistance from the Fund for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Committee is composed of 24 States Members. In order to ensure continuity of work, every two years, half of the Committee's composition is renewed as a result of elections. The Members of the Committee are elected for a term of four years, according to the principles of equitable geographical representation. As for May 2018 the Convention was ratified by 178 countries.

States Parties which will be represented in the Committee until the next session of the General Assembly in 2020, are: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Cameroon, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Djibouti, Guatemala, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Mauritius, Netherlands, Palestine, Philippines, Poland, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Togo, Zambia.

Memory of the World – Poland's activity in the UNESCO programme

“Member States are urged to consider their documentary heritage as an invaluable asset and to apply this perspective in national legislation, development policies and agendas...”

(UNESCO Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form, 2015)

After the 13th Meeting of the International Advisory Committee of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme (Paris, 23-27 October 2017) and the decision of the UNESCO Director-General approving its recommendations, the international Memory of the World Register that gathers objects of documentary heritage of a special, worldwide importance, has been once again enlarged. At present, it lists 427 documents and collections from 107 countries. Among the 78 newly inscribed objects, three – of a very various character – were submitted by Polish institutions:

The Act of the Union of Lublin document, kept in the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw (joint Polish-Lithuanian-Belarusian-Ukrainian-Latvian nomination on the Register) – inscribed as a unique testimony to the state union created in early modern times as a result of negotiations

and an agreement of two equal parties, with a significant role of the parliament¹.

Documents of Polish radio intelligence from the period of the Battle of Warsaw in 1920, stored in the Central Military Archives – inscribed as a new type of historical source and an exceptional, first testimony of the important effect on the outcome of one of the decisive battles in the history of the world that, in the case of the Battle of Warsaw², had the use by Polish intelligence of a technique based on radio monitoring and advanced methods of decryption.

Jürgen Stroop's Report “Es gibt keinen jüdischen Wohnbezirk – in Warschau mehr!” (There is no more Jewish district in Warsaw!), stored in the Institute of National Remembrance – inscribed as an exceptional document of the history of Holocaust crimes; the formal record of the suppression of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising – the largest in

¹ The Union, signed on 27 June 1569 at the Sejm in Lublin in the face of the approaching death of the last ruler of the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania from the Jagiellonian dynasty, replaced the former personal union, which had existed with only small interruptions since 1385, with a permanent state treaty. This treaty created the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth with an elected monarch of both nations and survived until 1795, encompassing the lands that today belong to Poland, Lithuania, Belarus, Ukraine, and partly Latvia and Russia.

² The Battle of Warsaw on 13-17 August 1920 was the climax of the Polish-Bolshevik war; the key victory of the Polish army which reversed the fate of the war, preventing the Bolsheviks from conquering Warsaw and marching to the west of Europe.

Germany-occupied Europe – and of the elimination of the ghetto in spring 1943³.

After the recent inscriptions, there are currently as many as seventeen documentary heritage objects stored in Polish memory institutions on the international Memory of the World Register.

On 28 September, 2018, at the Belvedere Residential Complex in Warsaw, a historic site particularly related to Marshal Josef Piłsudski, the ceremony of the 3rd edition of Polish National Register of UNESCO Memory of the World Programme took place – a unique edition held in the year of the 100th anniversary celebration of regaining independence by Poland in 1918. The Register has been enlarged by 21 items, a vast majority of which are connected to that crucial moment in Polish history.

When following the Polish activity in UNESCO, it is not hard to notice that the activities related to documentary heritage, undertaken as part of the Memory of the World Programme, together with the conventions in the field of culture, enjoy a special, constant interest and support of our country, Polish memory institutions, and experts. The Polish documentary heritage objects have been systematically submitted for inscription on the International Memory of the World Register, since 1999. From 2004, a Polish National Register of the Memory of the World Programme has also been kept. Poland was, among others, the host of the 1st and 6th Meeting of the International Advisory Committee (IAC) of the Memory of the World Programme (Pułtusk 1993, Gdańsk 2003) and the accompanying sub-regional consultations (respectively Central European and Baltic); in recent years it has also hosted the 4th International Memory of the World Conference “Culture, Memory, Identities” (Warsaw 2011) and international expert meetings summoned by UNESCO in 2012 and 2014 in the framework of the activities aimed at reinforcing the Programme and

within the process of drafting the Recommendation concerning the preservation of, and access to, documentary heritage, including in digital form.

The Polish involvement in the UNESCO documentary heritage programme seems obvious for historical reasons. Documentary heritage is a source of memory, information and knowledge, particularly important in informative terms, and at the same time extremely “fragile” – susceptible to loss and sensitive in many ways. In Poland, the awareness of the importance of documentary heritage has been strengthened in dramatic circumstances – by large losses incurred during the partitions, and especially during World War II. The former Director-General of UNESCO, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, drew attention to this during the opening of the 1st IAC Meeting of the Memory of the World Programme in Pułtusk, reminding that the losses of the Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw incurred during World War II amounted to 95 per cent. Another factor which strengthens this awareness is the memory of maintaining – and even significant strengthening – of Poland’s political and cultural identity under partitions, despite the loss of independence and own state structures. Without this, it would be difficult to imagine the readiness of the Polish society to undertake the effort that led to the regaining of independence in 1918, when, after the years of partitions, liberation became possible also due to the change in the international situation. This development of Polish culture and political identity was possible to a great extent thanks to the preservation of collective memory, of which documents constitute an important source⁴. The Memory of the World Programme was created in 1992 precisely for that reason – to counteract the threat of memory loss and to support UNESCO Member States, their memory institutions, and all those who are trying to improve the situation in the area of reserving documentary heritage and the access to it.

³ In contrast to the Ringelblum Archive, inscribed in 1999, this document presents the Holocaust from the point of view of the oppressor. As highlighted by the Institute of National Remembrance in the nomination application, “the document – despite the intention of the author – does not glorify German ‘strength’ and ‘courage’, but becomes the indictment and evidence of the crimes committed against the Jewish population; instead of praising the merits of the soldiers ruthlessly carrying out the orders, it is a tribute to the innocent victims [...] it has a universal character – as a warning – that does not allow to forget the cruelty and brutality, that commemorates the heroic struggle of people fighting for their dignity and humanity, which has been going on forever in all parts of the world”.

⁴ Among the Polish objects inscribed on the international Memory of the World Register, this relationship is documented by the collections of the Historical and Literary Society operating in Paris since the 1830s: the Polish Library and the Museum of Adam Mickiewicz in Paris. They are unique as a testimony to the activity (operating continuously to this day) of a large immigration cultural institution, acting as a kind of a national library in exile and a center of thought that played an important international role in the cooperation of intellectuals and freedom milieus in the nineteenth century.

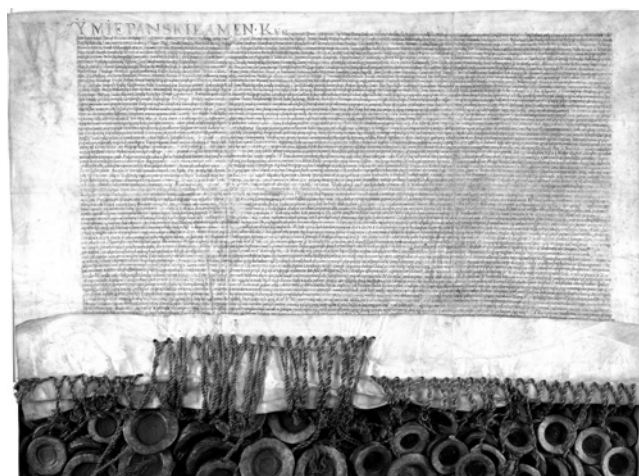
The period in which the Programme was created and in which its main foundations and principles were shaped was the time of the fall of the Iron Curtain, of transformations in Central and Eastern Europe, the collapse of the USSR, the Balkan war, and the already ongoing acceleration of the development of digital technologies, which revolutionized the formation and circulation of information and knowledge, and the entire sphere of social communication. On the one hand, new possibilities of promoting access to documentary resources of archives, libraries, museums, various institutions and private collections were opening; on the other hand, however, a significant part of heritage was being destroyed or lost – due to neglect, incompetence, lack of awareness or means, natural disasters and various unpredictable misfortunes, but also due to deliberate actions. The world opinion was shocked by the burning down of the National and University Library of Bosnia and Herzegovina in Sarajevo as a result of artillery fire – the building had stored many of the most valuable documents for the history of the Balkans, especially Bosnia and Herzegovina: manuscripts, prints, maps and photographs. It happened a few months after the creation of the Memory of the World Programme.

Due to the rapid growth in both the quantity and the significance of digital documents, as well as because of the need to ensure digital accessibility of analogue documents, preservation of digital heritage has been a particularly dynamically growing challenge since the inception of the Memory of the World Programme.

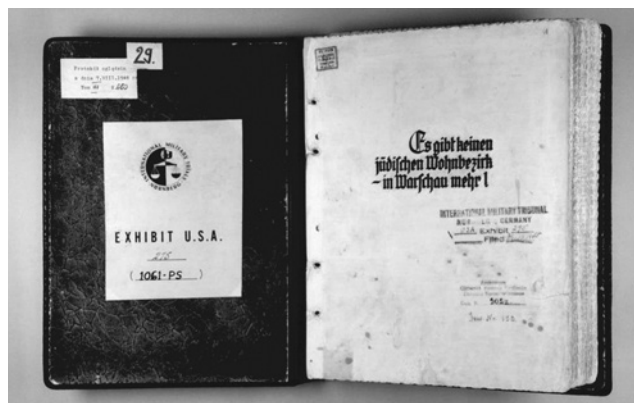
The digital age in which we live opens up unprecedented opportunities for increasing the

access to documentary heritage and its presence in the global circulation of information, knowledge and culture. However, it also brings dangers, such as marginalization in cases of insufficient use of these possibilities, e.g. a drastic reduction of access to analogue heritage (if it is not properly digitized) and the possibility of forgetting its essential parts (a particularly urgent problem in the case of film and audiovisual materials). Another serious challenge is the issue of archivization (and selection) of materials created exclusively in digital form, connected to their rapidly growing number, their dynamic character (identity), the ageing of the software, etc. A significant part of these materials (although can we say that we certainly know which ones, from the perspective of future generations?) deserve to be permanently stored as heritage of humanity. The way we meet these kinds of challenges determines, to a large extent, how we see others and ourselves as persons, societies, groups, cultures, histories, namely, our individual and collective identity. It also affects the way our descendants will picture our times.

Considering the opportunities offered by information and communication technologies and the changes driven by them that take place in front of our eyes, it seems that the Memory of the World Programme and its registers have somewhat of an emblematic significance in our times. The development of communication leads to the unprecedented expansion of collective memory to include the awareness of various, even distant societies and cultures as well as their historical experiences, ways of life, systems of value, predispositions, etc. This, in turn, leads



The Act of the Union of Lublin document.
Photo © Central Archives of Historical Records in Warsaw



Stroop Report: the copy preserved at the Institute of National Remembrance – the inner side of the cover.
Photo: © The State Treasury: the President of the Institute of National Remembrance Commission for the Prosecution of Crimes against the Polish Nation.

to developing a collective, multi-level, world-scale awareness, shared by large groups and opinion-making milieus. This encourages us to talk about a common “memory of the world”, which is certainly very diverse and variable, and during the creation of which also the opposite phenomena occur.

It is about memory, but also about a history understood as a critical reflection on the past and on the memory itself. Such historical reflection facilitates a better understanding of different perspectives, of people, diverse traditions and societies, as well as engaging in dialogue, by basing it on knowledge. Historical sources are particularly documents (in a broad sense of the term). This rather obvious statement further highlights the importance of documentary heritage, and consequently, the Memory of the World Programme and its registers, as well as of the 2015 UNESCO Recommendation on the preservation, and access to documentary heritage, including in digital form.

The Recommendation is the first and the only so far legal instrument with a global range (even though it belongs to the category of “soft law”), which refers explicitly to documentary heritage, comprehensively covering the issue of its preservation, access to it, and related policy and cooperation requirements at levels ranging from domestic to international.

Poland has consistently engaged in activities aimed at adopting the Recommendation. Its representatives and experts actively participated in drafting the document. A need was recognized for an instrument that would fill an important gap in international law, support the development of legislation and policies, and improve the conservation and accessibility of documentary heritage, and thus its greater presence in the circulation of information, knowledge and culture.

In the Recommendation itself, apart from individual recommendations for UNESCO Member States, attention should be paid to the definitions of a document and documentary heritage, which, according to the concept of the Memory of the

World Programme, have a deliberately broad and “inclusive” character, including very diverse individual objects and collections created both in analogue and digital form. The Recommendation also emphasizes the need to actively engage memory institutions, civil society and other stakeholders in the creation of policies that protect and share documentary heritage, and the need to strengthen the memory institutions and provide them with the necessary independence in the area of preserving and sharing documentary heritage, linking it with the trust, necessary for these institutions in the matters related to the selection and protection of heritage objects of this type. The participation of memory institutions in the cooperation on the development of international standards is crucial, especially in relation to digital resources and ensuring their permanent accessibility. Equally noteworthy are the recommendations that relate to the cooperation in the research on documentary heritage, to trainings, education, to the use of digital technologies for the promotion of free access to documentary heritage and protection of endangered heritage, as well as the recommendations for cooperation and exchange of copies in the cases where the same objects are particularly important for different countries. The aspirations that permeate the content of the entire Recommendation can be briefly summarized as a long-term preservation of analogue and digital documentary heritage for current and future generations and ensuring its universal availability, made possible through communication and information technologies⁵.

The discussion that took place during the Fourth International Memory of the World Conference, entitled “Culture, Memory, Identities”, organized in Warsaw in 2011 jointly by UNESCO and Poland⁶, largely contributed to the grounding of the conviction that the international Recommendation is precisely the instrument that will meet ever the increasingly more urgent needs of preserving of documentary heritage and ensuring its permanent and universal accessibility. Arguments for various solutions were

⁵ See Bulletin of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO 2015-2016, pp. 37-38 and the Bulletin of the Polish ICOMOS Committee, no. 1-2 (40-41) 2018 pp. 47-48. Links to the Recommendation in official UNESCO languages and its Polish translation published by Head Office of State Archives are available under the following address: <http://www.unesco.pl/instrumentarium-prawne/>

⁶ A number of post-conference presentations and articles can be found in the book *Culture – Memory – Identities. Memory of the World Program and Diversified Perception of the Past: papers of the 4th International Conference of the UNESCO Memory of the World Programme*, ed. Wojciech Fałkowski. Warsaw (NDAP) 2013.

presented, however, with a strong general conviction that, due to the fragile nature of documentary heritage and the new challenges related to the development of digital technologies, the need for the instrument is imperative. A number of participants of the conferences and subsequent discussions believed that a “soft law” solution would be the best in the current situation, as it would enable maintaining the expert nature of the Memory of the World Programme and guarantee the instant application of the instrument to all 195 UNESCO Member States (without the need for prior ratification, as is the case with conventions). Such a solution seems to suit the dynamic nature of the changes resulting from the development of digital technologies. The discussion was continued among the International Advisory Committee to the Memory of the World Programme and the cooperating experts, as well as on the intergovernmental level. During the 38th session of the UNESCO General Conference, the Recommendation was unanimously adopted, giving impetus to the Member States to develop policies, and international legal support to the memory institutions worldwide, needed to strengthen the activities aimed at preservation and accessibility of documentary heritage and to foster the necessary cooperation.

A very important way in which the Memory of the World programme works is raising awareness. This is done primarily by the International Memory of the World Register, as well as regional and national registers, which are respectfully developed globally, in UNESCO regions, and in the individual Member States. All of them are conducive to the creation of the aforementioned shared global consciousness, memory and knowledge. By popularizing information about the heritage of different cultures, civilizations, societies, communities, and about various events, processes, achievements, disasters, tragedies, experiences, etc., they literally become “memory registers”.

The significance of the international Memory of the World Register was acknowledged very quickly in Poland. Already in 1996, shortly after the decision on its creation was announced, the Polish Committee for the Memory of the World Programme was established as one of the first or even the first in the world. This committee has set itself a number of tasks related

to fostering cooperation within the programme, including the organization of the already mentioned international conferences and meetings in Poland. However, the most visible aspect of its activity concerns Registers, created as part of the Memory of the World Programme: the international one, and then also the national, Polish one, which, so far, has had three editions (2014, 2016, 2018).

At its inception, the Polish Committee for the Memory of the World Programme reviewed the Polish documentary heritage against the criteria for inscription into the then emerging international Memory of the World Register. Out of over 300 proposals submitted by memory institutions from all over Poland, 25 objects (documents and collections) have been selected, which, in the Committee’s opinion, could meet the criteria for entering the List. The current 17 Polish inscriptions on the international Register come mainly, but not exclusively, from among these twenty-five objects.

The International Memory of the World Register gathers a very diverse heritage, which meets the criteria of international, world influence. The variety of Polish objects inscribed on the Register is well illustrated already by the first three Polish entries from 1999: the autograph of the epochal work of Nicholas Copernicus *De revolutionibus*, in which the scientist presents the heliocentric theory; autographs by Fryderyk Chopin, including works and letters; and the underground archive of the Warsaw Ghetto (Emanuel Ringelblum Archives). From the perspective of cross-border cooperation and raising awareness of the shared/common history and culture on a supranational scale, the inscriptions on the international Register of joint nominations with the memory institutions from other countries seem particularly valuable. In addition to the already mentioned The Act of the Union of Lublin document, in the case of Polish heritage, this applies to the *Codex Suprasliensis* (Polish-Russian-Slovenian nomination), and the Radziwiłł’s Archives and Niasvizh (Nieśwież) Library Collection (Belarusian-Lithuanian-Polish-Russian-Ukrainian nomination). Each of the objects of Polish documentary heritage inscribed on the international Memory of the World Register (also the ones not listed here⁷) can be said to be particularly

⁷ All Polish inscriptions on the Register are listed on the pages of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO: <http://www.unesco.pl/komunikacja-i-informacja/pamiec-swiata/polskie-objekty-na-liscie-pamieci-swiata/> (in Polish)

important in understanding the contribution of Poland to the universal history, culture and world civilization, or the events or processes of a broad range that had an impact on the history of Europe and the world and which distinctively manifested themselves in Poland.

Among the Polish inscriptions on the International

Memory of the World Register, one can easily notice the strong position of documents and collections related to the civilizational achievements of the Jagiellonian monarchy, the old Republic (Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth) and the continuation of their traditions of freedom and tolerance in the later epochs. These achievements, represented on the international Register, include i.a. the autograph of *De revolutionibus* and various testimonies of tolerance and tradition, thought or "spirit" of a kind of republicanism, democratism, civility, and respect for diversity – as for the times, of course; the "spirit" which demanded to negotiate political solutions and guarantee freedoms. It especially concerns the documents and collections inscribed on the Memory of the World Register that were basic for the government of the old Republic: The Confederation of Warsaw of 28th of January 1573 act and the Act of the Union of Lublin document; and also such entries as the Files and library of the Unity of the Brethren; the Peace treaties (*ahdnames*) concluded from the mid-15th century to late-18th century between the Kingdom of Poland and the Ottoman Empire (inscribed as a testimony to the emergence, in the modern period, of the concept of peaceful negotiation of international relations undeterred by religious and cultural differences); and National Education Commission (KEN) Archives. Would it be risky to state that this "spirit", common in the territories of the old Republic, survived the partitions and can still be found in such Polish objects inscribed on the international Register as the Boards with Twenty-One Demands, from Gdańsk, August 1980 and the "Birth of Solidarity trades union – a massive social movement document" collection, the Archives of the Literary Institute in Paris" (1946-2000) (Literary Institute in Maisons-Laffitte and its "Kultura" review), as well as in The Baltic Way - Human Chain Linking

Three States in Their Drive for Freedom, a Lithuanian-Latvian-Estonian inscription documenting a loud, mass manifestation organized in those countries – which were at the time still Soviet republics – on the 50th anniversary of the Hitler-Stalin pact – which was important for regaining their independence and for the collapse of the USSR?

The Polish National Register of the Memory of the

World Programme contains objects of documentary heritage of particular importance to the understanding of Polish culture, history and identity. The 43 objects inscribed so far, include, among others: the Chronicle of Gallus Anonimus (the oldest Polish chronicle); Rocznik Świętokrzyski Dawny (the Ancient Świętokrzyski Annual, oldest preserved testimony of Polish historiography); Kazania Świętokrzyskie (Świętokrzyskie sermons, the oldest preserved prose text in Polish); Zbilut's document, published in 1153 (the oldest preserved legal act made on Polish territory); the Krewo Act from 1385 (first union between the Kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania); Łaski's Statute; Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski's *De Republica emendanda* (a copy of the first edition, 1551, with a personal dedication from Andrzej Frycz Modrzewski to King Zygmunt August); Constitution of 3rd May 1791 government act; the autograph of Adam Mickiewicz's *Pan Tadeusz* (*Sir Thaddeus*); Kazimierz Stronczyński's *Description and views of antique monuments in the Kingdom of Poland* (documentation of the first – in Poland and in Europe – national inventory of monuments in the middle of the 19th century); Ignacy Jan Paderewski's Memorandum of 17th January 1917 to the President of the United States of America, Woodrow Wilson, in respect of/concerning Poland and her independence, the Peace Treaty between Poland and Russia and Ukraine, signed on 18th March 1921 in Riga the (known as Riga Treaty)⁸.

The uniqueness and significance of several objects

on the Memory of the World Programme registers become more visible against the backdrop of other types of heritage, for instance, the sites inscribed on the World Heritage List, and vice versa – the knowledge of these objects makes it possible to see more clearly the meaning and character of

⁸ All inscriptions are available in Polish on the pages of Polish National Commission for UNESCO (<http://www.unesco.pl/komunikacja-i-informacja/pamiec-swiata/polska-lista-krajowa-programu-pamiec-swiata/>), and their extended presentation on the pages of NDAP: <http://pamiecpolski.archiwa.gov.pl/obiekty>

the sites. A good Polish example is the Archive of Warsaw Reconstruction Office (BOS), inscribed on the international Memory of the World Register. It documents the destruction of Warsaw and its reconstruction after World War II, especially the area of the today's World Heritage site: the Historic Centre of Warsaw.

In turn, the Warsaw Confederation Act of 1573, inscribed on the international Register, is a document that guaranteed religious tolerance, as one of the foundations of the government of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth. Similarly to the Constitution of 3rd May 1791, signed in the Royal Castle in Warsaw (inscribed on the Polish National Register of the Memory of the World), it highlights the Royal Castle's role in the political system of the old Republic and its subsequent significance for the tradition of Polish sovereignty, parliamentarism and democracy. It says a lot about the symbolic dimension of the Castle's total destruction as well as its subsequent reconstruction.

The Warsaw Confederation Act also sheds light on the permeation and peaceful coexistence of cultures, faiths and religions in Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, the traces of which are the

Wooden *Tserkvas* of the Carpathian Region in Poland and Ukraine, inscribed jointly by Poland and Ukraine on the World Heritage List.

The Brief and Precise Description of the Administration and Conditions in the Wieliczka and Bochnia Salt Mines in the Year of Christ 1518 concerns yet another WH site. It was inscribed on Polish National Memory of the World Register as a remarkable testimony to the structure and functioning of one of the largest enterprises in medieval and early modern Europe.

What is sometimes underlined is the need to consider heritage as a whole of a kind, despite the distinctiveness of its individual types, which are defined from different points of view and the protection of which requires separate measures, management methods and legal regulations. Different types of heritage are interconnected in numerous ways, both in the practical dimension and in consideration of the reflection on the importance of heritage and its individual sites, elements or objects. The 2015 Recommendation on documentary heritage encourages synergies "in order to assure further coherence of actions". Of course, synergy should not mean uniformity, nor should it blur the differences between UNESCO conventions, programmes or principles of managing heritage lists. What it should do instead is to show the relations and the complementarity of various kinds of testimonies to humanity's achievements and experiences. Revealing the relationships between the heritage inscribed on the lists, maintained under various conventions, and programmes of UNESCO – and not only UNESCO – would certainly serve the purpose of drawing interest to it, of disseminating and developing knowledge about this heritage, as well as of better understanding the world. The rapid development of digital technologies greatly aids it as well. ●

Tomasz Komorowski

Documents of Polish radio intelligence from the period of the Battle of Warsaw in 1920: a form with intercepted by Polish radio intelligence Russian coded message bearing the handwritten deciphered text. Photo: © Central Military Archives of Poland at Military Historical Bureau.

This material is an adaptation of the articles prepared for the Bulletin of the Polish ICOMOS Committee, no. 1-2 (40-41) 2018, pp. 43-51; the appendix for magazine *Ochrona Zabytków (Historical Monument Protection)*, Warsaw 2017, pp. 193-190; *World Heritage N°84* – July 2017: *Special Issue – World Heritage in Poland*, pp. 96-100 for the Bulletin of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. A number of themes had been the topic of a presentation delivered on 21 August 2017 in Wrocław during the UNESCO Open Session at the 83rd World Library and Information Congress (WLIC) of the IFLA International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (<https://www.ifla.org/node/11698>).

Sustainable Development and Culture

The word sustainability is very often instinctively associated with the natural environment, but it is very important to go beyond this limited understanding of the very broad, multi-layered and complex notion of sustainability and SD. The idea we are considering, in order to understand it as omnipresent and surrounding us entirely, is to extend this term to include natural, social and environmental aspects, as well as the entire cultural field. A particularly significant role in this regard – when we speak about behaviors, customs, stereotypes, attitudes or axiology – is played by intangible culture. The elements of intangible cultural heritage could be nowadays useful for many societies in the practical implementation of sustainable development. But unfortunately, to equally many, this does not apply.

All these associations and the need for a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach have been noticed by UNESCO for the last few years. The Organization has a mandate and instruments to play an important role in elaborating even the most complex solutions in different areas in which sustainability is taken into account. One of the very important instruments in the process of looking for the comprehension and holistic approach in the relations between natural and social sciences is dialogue, extensively used in this Organization.

Looking from today's perspective, we can say that the same principle was guiding the inception of the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Programme in 1970 – a year after the publication of the famous “Man and his Environment” report by the UN Secretary-General U. Thant, in reaction to the crisis in the way humans acted upon the natural environment. Among other issues, the report draws attention to the “poor integration of powerful and efficient technology with environmental requirements, deterioration of agricultural

lands, unplanned extension of urban areas". The observations made in it were reflected in the basics of the MAB programme, which refer to a sustainable coexistence of the natural environment and local communities, aiming to reconcile protection of the environment and the development of these communities through somewhat inscribing one of these dimensions into the other, with the consideration of the cultural aspect. Unfortunately, these rules, despite the existence of a network of MAB reserves in Poland, are not reflected in our law.

The idea of mutual connections and interdependencies underlies the philosophy of UNESCO's action, as well as the understanding of the causative role of man in all processes of change taking place in the environment. This means that no progress in any field is possible without changing human attitudes. It is thus extremely important that local communities play a conscious, active role in the processes of managing natural resources and searching for solutions to environmental problems they face. Active participation means taking responsibility for a sustainable way of managing both what is available now and what is to remain for future generations. To make this possible, it is necessary to support this beautiful and rightful idea with specific provisions of law, which, on the one hand, will give the local community a concrete instrument to co-decide on environmental matters and the use of natural resources, and on the other hand, will allow the state to share the responsibility for the wider environment with those who use it daily on a local scale.

This process of shaping responsible citizens, aware of their own role in society, will also be impossible without education – the most important field which decides about the progress in all the others. In the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 adopted in 2015, among the 17 Goals of Sustainable Development and their 169 Targets, the majority refers directly to the areas of UNESCO's involvement. The leading position among them is occupied by SDG 4, referring to quality education on all levels, which is to be available to all people and throughout their entire lifetimes, with the education on sustainable development being an important part in this process, and at the same time a key condition to realize all the other Goals of the Agenda. Education on and for sustainable development should be an important – and obligatory, and thus legally guaranteed – element of core curriculum in each and every Polish education system, as well as in the teachers' training, as without the teachers – and their conscious participation – the legislation itself will only be a dead letter.

In addition to formal education, an inexhaustible source of knowledge is the local community itself. Traditional knowledge passed down from generation to generation is the source of solutions to many environmental problems with which formal science is unable to cope. UNESCO appreciated this treasury of traditional knowledge more than a dozen years ago, paying attention to the traditional relationships of humans with nature, stemming from local cultures,

by creating countless projects which support local communities and their deep knowledge of environmental problems based on natural mechanisms, passed down from generation to generation. These solutions are today the only chance to effectively deal with the problems of water scarcity, desertification, and deforestation in vast areas of the Globe. The protection and restoration of terrestrial ecosystems and the promotion of sustainable methods of their use, the management of forests, as well as halting biodiversity loss are covered by SDG 15.

Is it possible to achieve these Goals without the conscious attitude of local communities, formed by cultural ties?

It is worth noting that for the first time in an international development agenda there is such a clear, direct reference to culture, as a field having a direct impact on the standard of living of societies and individuals; on the possibilities of reducing poverty and building civic societies. It is also worth remembering that the part of the 2030 Agenda which refers to the protection of cultural heritage has solid support in international law, thanks to the UNESCO cultural conventions, which are, after all, acts of international law.

The implementation of UNESCO programmes and conventions on the protection and promotion of cultural and natural heritage, as well as the development of cultural industries and programmes implemented in cooperation with the Member States' governments are of key importance for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Drawing from the resource of culture contributes significantly to improving living conditions by increasing the organizational capacity of communities in spatial management on various levels. One of today's main problems is balancing the activities at the interface between natural and cultural areas. Strengthening the efforts to protect and safeguard the cultural and natural heritage is one of the main tasks of SDG 11, which is devoted to the creation of safe, sustainable cities and human settlements.

In 2007, Poland ratified the Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions adopted by UNESCO General Conference in 2005. It specifically indicates the participation of broadly understood culture in the implementation of the development policy of the State. An introduction of the issues discussed in it on the stage of development planning and implementation at every level of State administration can contribute to the entrenchment of the democratic social processes.

The key to the Convention Article 13, reads: "Parties shall endeavour to integrate culture in their development policies at all levels". Understanding this provision is clarified by subsequent Operational Guidelines which recommend to establish effective inter-ministerial mechanisms that allow coordination of this policy and highlight the need to "improve development policy in the sectors of education, tourism, public health, safety and urban land management". The provisions on local cultural identity and the participation of culture

in State policy “as a strategic element” are also strengthened. The Convention, thus, on the one hand, emphasizes the role of cultural diversity as “the mainspring for sustainable development” – as we read in the Preamble, and on the other, points out the principle of complementarity and equivalence of its economic and cultural aspects. Therefore, the Convention makes sustainable development dependant on the participation of culture, permeating three basic elements, usually distinguished as economics, environment and society.

The vision of the broadly understood participation of culture in development was presented by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO in 2009, in a publication entitled “Culture and sustainable development. Environment, spatial order, heritage”¹. However, its wording – defining culture as a condition for sustainable development and local identity; as an integral part of a diverse biocultural environment; as a significant development capital and a factor in building democracy, especially on the local level – despite the passage of almost 10 years, still does not function in the public awareness.

We raised this issue in the context of the interdependence of the widely understood environment and the shaping and fostering of social development, in the book entitled “Cultural and natural landscape from a social perspective”² published in 2015. It bases on the assumption that the condition for sustainable development is the protection of the environment understood complementarily; which combines natural, cultural, tangible and intangible heritage, in connection with the natural environment.

To some extent, this issue was addressed by the 1972 UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage³, but despite the success of the World Heritage List, it failed to introduce to the general consciousness the equivalence of culture and nature as the components of the human environment.

The complementary understanding of the natural and cultural environment, or in other words, the holistic approach, is reflected, however, in the 2011 UNESCO Recommendation on the Historic Urban Landscape (HUL). Landscape is referred to here as “layering of cultural and natural values and attributes” understood as both tangible and intangible heritage. This modern approach is a response to phenomena related to “rapid and uncontrolled urbanization”, which “may frequently result in social and spatial fragmentation and in a drastic deterioration of the quality of the urban environment and of the surrounding rural areas”, as stated in the Preamble of the Recommendation.

As we read in the definition, the concept of heritage has been significantly expanded, and the historical landscape is a wider

¹ *Kultura a zrównoważony rozwój. Środowisko, ład przestrzenny, dziedzictwo*, prof. R. Janikowski, prof. K. Krzysztofek, PK ds. UNESCO, Warszawa 2009

² *Krajobraz kulturowo-przyrodniczy z perspektywy społecznej*, prof. S. Ratajski, prof. M. Ziółkowski, PK ds. UNESCO, Warszawa 2015

³ <http://whc.unesco.org/en/conventiontext/>

context of the urban landscape and includes „the site’s topography, geomorphology, hydrology and natural features, its built environment, both historic and contemporary, its infrastructures above and below ground, its open spaces and gardens, its land use patterns and spatial organization”, as well as, importantly, perceptions and visual relationships. An important element of this complex and integrated understanding of landscape, as we read further in the definition, are the intangible dimensions of heritage related to the intangible culture of the local community as related to identity and diversity.

The last wording of this definition is a consequence of adoption of the Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2003 and of the previously mentioned Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions in 2005. The former was ratified in Poland in 2011, and still has not yet been reflected in Polish law, despite the fact that it concerns an entire range of issues related to intangible heritage, which, as we can see, is inseparable from the contemporary understanding of landscape as entire environment. The nature of this heritage is defined in Article 2 of the Convention: “The intangible cultural heritage means the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge, skills – as well as the instruments, objects, artefacts and cultural spaces associated therewith – that communities, groups and, in some cases, individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage. This intangible cultural heritage, transmitted from generation to generation, is constantly recreated by communities and groups in response to their environment, their interaction with nature and their history, and provides them with a sense of identity and continuity, thus promoting respect for cultural diversity and human creativity.”

We thus have to do with binding the landscape with the dimension of local identity, which is expressed not only in its geological, natural and symbolic layout, or the meanings behind the architecture of buildings; but also in the local social relations expressed in various cultural forms which define those buildings.

The ideas expressed in the mentioned above UNESCO documents reflect an evolution of the discussed concepts, which has been taking place in parallel to the civilizational processes of the recent decades; this evolution has been also marked by an increasing awareness of the significance of heritage, as an important catalyst of sustainable development. This is evidenced by the tendencies to seek synergy in the aspects related to the human environment that were previously considered separately. These pursuits are dominated by the anthropocentric approach, which determines the view of landscape – understood as entire environment – as an important factor affecting the shaping of individuals and the development of society.

The function related to the preservation of the local space is, in the context of sustainable development, one of the main challenges of modern planning. It is precisely this function that regulates, to a large extent, the existence of strong community bonds, which allow the

community to actively participate in democratic processes, aimed at self-governance and responsibility for the local spaces of housing estates, districts, cities, the natural environment and water systems.

Economic development, subject to the sustainable development principles, is based on the most important assets – people; their creativity, attitudes, sensitivity to values, cooperation skills, as well as on their production capabilities, in which the growth potential is embedded, but which are largely dependent on the cultural and natural environment, responsible for shaping the sense of identity and social bonds. Sustainable development – a term which is inherently political – can be thus replaced with a different one, better suited to express the idea of consonance with the environment. It seems that the word “harmony” suits best. Therefore, when we talk about a development that is sustainable, we mean a development of humans and communities that is harmonious and engaged in a dialogue with the environment, ensuring its continuity in a form conducive to the development of future generations; as it seems that we – the ones who play a part in creating this environment – are still lacking the awareness that when we destroy it – no matter on what scale – we hurt ourselves. ●

Sławomir Ratajski

Towards the Sustainable Development of Polish Cities

Sustainable development

Article 5 of the Polish Constitution reads: "The Republic of Poland shall safeguard the independence and integrity of its territory and ensure the freedoms and rights of persons and citizens, the security of the citizens, safeguard the national heritage and shall ensure the protection of the natural environment pursuant to the principles of sustainable development." Without going into the complexities of the terminological deliberations on the meaning of "sustainable development", we can admit that the concept corresponds to what is referred to in Polish as "*zrównoważony rozwój*" and in French "*développement durable*". In this way, we can recognize that the entire article 5 of our Constitution responds to the challenges of "sustainability" or "durability" of the country's development.

The inclusion of the principle of sustainable development in the highest legal act is not common; the Polish Constitution is one of few such acts. Thus, the responsibility of the public authorities and the society to meet the challenges of sustainable development is even greater. At the same time, it adds to the convergence of the requirements of the Polish Constitution and the directives of international organizations, making up the UN system, first of all its specialized organization – UNESCO.

We devote this text solely to the territorial dimension of sustainable development: the problems of cities. What is more, we will limit this issue to two mutually interrelated aspects: the natural environment and social participation. It is thanks to social activity that the perception of environmental issues and its use among the representatives of public authorities is changing. As a result, these authorities undertake many new tasks related to improving the living

conditions of residents. We will illustrate our considerations with several examples from Polish cities that are trying to implement the principles of sustainable development.

Cities, metropolises

Why do we focus on cities? From the “formal” point of view, this can be justified by the importance that the UN attaches to sustainable urban development by formulating the 11th Sustainable Development Goal: “Sustainable Cities and Communities”. Polish cities are home to slightly more than 60 percent of the country’s population, and this share has been slightly declining for more than ten years; the main reason for this is suburbanization, which is a significant part of the migration outflow from cities that lose population – to areas formally referred to as “the countryside”.

In this regard, cities – great metropolises – are a special case. On

the one hand, they dominate in the development processes of the country. For example, approximately 63 percent of the Polish GDP is generated in the 7 largest Polish metropolitan areas (Kraków, Łódź, Poznań, Silesia and Dąbrowa, Tricity, Warsaw and Wrocław). At the same time, these large cities and their surrounding areas show high growth dynamics, significantly higher than the national average¹. As a result, the GDP generated in large cities per capita is usually significantly higher than national averages, which results from the benefits of the high concentration of high-order services, including the so-called specialised business services, characterised by high work efficiency and strong growth dynamics. For example, in Warsaw, the GDP per capita exceeds the national average almost three times; in Poznań – almost twice. The surroundings of these two cities also produce more value per capita than the country average. Similar patterns exist in many countries, including the countries of the European Union².

Cities – especially the large ones – have a somewhat dual character.

On the one hand, Jane Jacob’s was right to say that all of humanity’s progress has taken place in cities. What is more, as Manuel Castells points out, in the current phase of development (in which global competition is won by innovative, closely interrelated areas), this progress is made mainly in metropolises. Castells even claims that metropolises – which are the most important nodes of the global space of flows – rule the world. On the other hand, it is equally justifiable to say that large cities also generate large problems and strong tensions, unknown to areas with a lesser concentration of resources and lower intensity of economic, social, and ecological processes.

¹ G. Gorzelak, Refleksje o szansach i zagrożeniach polskich metropolii, in: *Polska regionów – Polska miast*, Małopolska Region City Council, Kraków 2017 (pp. 147-166).

² *Sixth report on economic, social and territorial cohesion*, European Commission, Brussels, 2014

The natural environment of Polish cities and the strive for its improvement

The challenge of sustainable urban development has been recognized as one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, adopted by the UN in 2015. In this way, the special significance of cities was emphasized as, on the one hand, centers for creating new development patterns, and on the other – places of concentration of negative impact upon the environment. The detailed targets, accompanying Goal 11, included, among others, topics important from the perspective of Polish cities, such as sustainable transport, air pollution, access to green areas and managing water in ways that enhance the adaptability of the territorial system. Polish cities have partially recognized the above-mentioned themes as significant challenges, largely due to the pressures of increasingly active local communities.

This particularly relates to the recently notorious smog problem, introduced to public discussion and, as a result, to public policy planning, thanks to the actions of activists gathered in local organizations – the smog alarms.

Poland occupies the infamous position of one of the worst in Europe in terms of air pollution in cities. Out of the 50 most polluted EU cities, 32 are Polish. It is therefore not surprising that the problem of smog has become one of the key topics of public discussions. Daily messages about the situation in the cities, broadcasted twice a day, spread awareness and remind the public of this pressing problem. Thus, in response to the key environmental challenges of sustainable urban development, a number (unfortunately still a small one) of interesting solutions have emerged in Poland. Three of them, selected to represent different cities and different areas of intervention, are presented below.

Protection of air in Kraków

The air in Kraków is one of the most polluted in Europe. In the European Environment Agency's ranking of cities most affected by smog, Kraków obtained the third place³. A year later, Kraków obtained the eight place among the 575 cities with the highest concentration of the harmful particles suspended in air PM10⁴. Kraków's results are also poor compared to other Polish centres. According to the 2016 data, the permissible level of PM10 was exceeded here most often, i.e. for as many as 165 days, with a limit of 35 days⁵. As a result, Kraków has become an informal "capital" of Polish smog and recently also... a pioneer in solutions to counter air pollution.

Smog in Kraków is not a new phenomenon, but only recently has it made its way into the general awareness. The creation of the Kraków

³ EEA 2014, <https://www.eea.europa.eu/data-and-maps/figures/percentage-of-urban-population-resident-in-areas-where-pollutant-concentrations-are-higher-than-selected-limit-target-values-eea-member-countries-2>

⁴ WHO 2014, http://www.who.int/phe/health_topics/outdoorair/databases/cities/en/

⁵ Kraków Smog Alert 2017, <https://smoglab.pl/smogowi-rekordzisci-najczystsze-miejsca-polsce/>

Smog Alert initiative in 2012 was of key importance. Thanks to social mobilisation and the work of experts and activists from the Kraków Smog Alert, after several years, the local government authorities were persuaded to cooperate. As a result, the Małopolska Province, as the first in Poland, adopted the anti-smog resolution in 2017. It is to the provisions of this resolution and the accompanying screening program that the further part of this case study will be devoted.

The Małopolska anti-smog resolution came into force on 1 July 2017 and covered the entire province, however, its provisions are different for Kraków and the areas surrounding it. The solutions introduced in the anti-smog resolution focus on reducing low emissions, i.e. pollutants generated mainly in individual heating installations. Many of them are the so-called coffers, i.e. obsolete solid fuel stoves – their number in Kraków was estimated at around 30,000 in 2015⁶. On top of this, there is also the pollution from industrial plants and car traffic; however, no coordinated actions have been taken in this area.

An important way to complement the solutions introduced in the anti-smog resolution for Kraków are the city support programs. The Low Emission Reduction Plan offers subsidies for exchanging air-polluting heat sources and installing renewable energy sources. In 2016, thanks to the funds from this program, over 4000 furnaces and solid fuel stoves were removed, 152 RES installations installed, and 46 buildings connected to the municipal heating network⁷. In order to accelerate the implementation of the program, diminishing funding thresholds were introduced – until 2016, it had been possible to obtain subsidies covering 100 percent of the costs; in subsequent years this rate drops by 20 percent.

A Local Support Measure Programme in Kraków was established in 2015 to support people who incur increased heating costs related to the permanent change of the solid fuel heating system to one of the more environmentally friendly systems. The amount of granted aid depends on the surface of the premises, the rate reflecting the increase in heating costs as a result of the use of environmentally friendly technology, and the income ratio. For example, a family of three, living in a flat of 70m² and having a net income of PLN 2,000 per person that switches to gas heating, will receive an annual subsidy of PLN 640⁸.

The aid provided under the Local Support Measure Programme not only encourages faster changes of heating sources but also affects the urgent problem of energy poverty. According to research, this problem affects even every third Polish citizen⁹ and, as such, should be considered as crucial in designing policies against air

⁶ <https://www.theguardian.com/cities/2015/apr/13/air-dirty-fight-pollution-krakow-poland-ban-wood-coal>

⁷ https://www.bip.krakow.pl/?dok_id=84171

⁸ https://mops.krakow.pl/mops/211787,artykul,lokalny_program_oslonowy_zmiana_ogrzewania.html

⁹ Bator A., Kukuła W. (2016), *Rola konsumenta w transformacji energetycznej, Fundacja ClientEarth Prawnicy dla Ziemi, Warszawa*

pollution. The example of Kraków shows that coordinated actions aimed at low emissions can be undertaken, considering both the technical (subsidies for furnace exchange, regulations on fuel quality) and social aspect.

System of public bicycles Veturilo in Warsaw

The number of registered cars in Warsaw is 730 per 1000 inhabitants, which is twice as many as in Berlin and 13 percent more than in Kraków¹⁰. In addition, over half a million cars enter the city every day¹¹. Despite the relatively well-developed public transport network and its popularity (57% of all Warsaw residents' non-pedestrian journeys¹²), the city's transport system is dominated by cars and the infrastructure is adapted to their needs. Rail transport provides an alternative; it has been developed in recent years mainly by extending the second underground line and launching new peripheral sections of tram routes. An alternative is also bicycle mobility. The latter solution is particularly beneficial from the point of view of mitigating the negative impact of mobility on the natural environment and urban space. An important impulse for the development of bicycle transport in Warsaw was the launch of the *Veturilo* urban bike system in 2012. This initiative will be described in the following case study.

Veturilo is a self-service city bike rental system, launched in 2012, operating as part of the Public Transport Authority in Warsaw, serviced by the company Nextbike. Bicycles are available from March to November for registered users. The first 20 minutes of riding is free, longer rentals require a small fee.

At the end of 2017¹³, there were 610 thousand users registered in the Veturilo system, who made 5.3 million hires during the year (an increase of 185 percent compared to 2016), using a pool of 5,147 bikes (an increase from 3053 in 2016), deployed at 355 stations (205 in 2016). This places Veturilo in the first place in Poland and the fifth among such systems in Europe, after Paris, London, Barcelona, and makes it a system comparable in terms of size with the one in Milan.

The development of Veturilo has a positive impact on reducing the environmental footprint. Users of the urban bikes covered about 10 million kilometers on them in 2017, which – assuming that they were previously users of combustion vehicles – reduced carbon dioxide emissions by about 1,000 tonnes. In 2017, the offer was extended by 100 electric-drive bicycles, designed to ease climbing hills, such as the Skarpa Warszawska. This instrument is conducive

¹⁰ Krajowe ramy polityki rozwoju infrastruktury paliw alternatywnych [National policy framework for alternative fuel infrastructure development] (2016), Ministry of Energy of Poland, Warsaw

¹¹ <http://warszawa.wyborcza.pl/warszawa/7,54420,21478977,samochody-uduszamiasto-codziennie-milion-aut-na-rozatkach.html>

¹² Warszawskie Badanie Ruchu [Research on Traffic in Warsaw] 2015, <http://transport.um.warszawa.pl/wbr2015>

¹³ If not stated otherwise, the data presented in the subsequent part of this case study come from: Warszawski Raport Rowerowy [Warsaw Bicycle Report] (2017), the Policy Office for Mobility and Transport Policy of the Capital City of Warsaw, Stowarzyszenie Zielone Mazowsze [Green Masovia Association], Warsaw

to including more people – also those who are less fit – to the group of urban bike users.

The research of traffic, conducted every year, allow assessing the extent to which Veturilo contributes to the change of the Warsaw mobility pattern. In 2015–2017 there was a marked increase in the share of bicycle journeys in the overall non-pedestrian travel from 3.8 to 5.5 percent. According to observations conducted in 2017, Veturilo accounted for 12.6 percent of bicycles used in Warsaw. Although their share in the total number of all trips still does not exceed 1 percent, the development of the Veturilo system remains important for the transformation of the mobility pattern. Several hundred thousand new cyclists, even if mostly occasional, on the one hand, forces the development of bicycle infrastructure, and on the other hand, allows these people to gradually change their habits.

The pressure on the development of bicycle infrastructure brings measurable results. In 2012, when the Veturilo system was launched, there was 340 km of cycle routes in Warsaw. Five years later, this number increased to 540 km, and 2018 will bring another 100 km of bicycle routes. Numerous self-service bicycle repair stations (over 150 operated in 2017) and bicycle parking lots have also emerged. However, this is not only due to the popularization of Veturilo, but also due to the earlier activities of Warsaw bicycle activists, engaged in, among others, the Warsaw Critical Mass initiative. It was their actions that led to the appointment of the City Mayor's plenipotentiary for bicycle communication, who is directly responsible for the promotion of this form of transport in Warsaw.

It is also worth noting that, outside of Warsaw, city bikes are available in 31 cities, often medium and small ones, and even in one municipality (adjacent to Warsaw). In a few cases, these are agglomeration systems that go beyond the city limits. In total, there are over 1,400 stations in Poland, with 16,000 bicycles available. Cycling lanes are a separate issue; they still do not form connected systems in most cities, but the improvement in this respect is quite fast.

The Blue-Green Network in Łódź

One of the key areas of climate change adaptation in Polish cities is water management. Polish cities are increasingly more often haunted by extreme weather phenomena, including heavy rainfall resulting in flooding (so-called flash floods) and long-lasting droughts, which threaten the greenery in the city¹⁴. Effective adaptation requires a systemic approach to the problem of the accelerated outflow of rainwater from urban areas, which goes beyond increasing the capacity of the sewage system or raising the height of embankments protecting against the flooding of inhabited areas. Here, the blue-green infrastructure solutions are particularly helpful. They are tools that provide ecological,

¹⁴ Szymalski W. (2017) , Dobry klimat dla miast, Instytut na rzecz Ekorozwoju, Warsaw

economic and social benefits through the development of natural systems or the adaptation of natural processes.

In the case of Łódź, its location at the drainage divide, together with the limited ground retention capacity and the decentralist system of 18 small watercourses result in a complete escape of water from the area of the city, but, in case of a sudden rainfall, in floodings in the city itself and in the areas below. Being aware of the problem, the local self-government started to look for solutions that support retention, as early as 20 years ago. Over time, a need has emerged to integrate the city's water-management activities. The *Learning Alliance* platform, established in 2006, became the grounds for cooperation in this area between representatives of the city, municipal companies, research institutions and social organizations. Ultimately, thanks to the network of partnerships, the Blue-Green Network concept was developed, which, in 2012, was included in the Integrated Development Strategy for Łódź 2020+.

The Blue-and-Green Network aims to establish a connection between the river valleys and green areas located in Łódź, in order to form a coherent system providing important ecosystem services for the city and its inhabitants. It is based on retention and purification of rainwater, prevention of floods and drought, but also on the improvement of the resilience of urban greenery, providing attractive space for recreation, and increasing the investment value of nearby areas¹⁵.

However, the changes started with a demonstration and experimental investment, namely, the ecological restoration of the Sokołówka River. The aim of this project was to increase its ability to absorb rainwater and self-clean, and to restore the ecological and recreational values of the valley. Thanks to the funds from the small retention program for Łódź and to European projects, several facilities were built in the Sokołówka valley, including water reservoirs with increased resistance to pollution and recreational reservoirs; in addition, in order to treat incoming storm waters, a sequential Sedimentation and Biofiltration System was developed (and patented). Plant species that effectively fight against pollution were planted on the banks and the bottom of the river. Integrated activities carried out in the period 2004–2012 in the Sokołówka valley cost about PLN 26 million, out of which investments on the river amounted to PLN 8 million¹⁶. As a result, the amount of rainwater making its way into the sewerage system was reduced, the retention capacity increased, and the fluctuations in the flow of river and rainwater decreased. The quality of water in the river has improved, and biodiversity has also increased, due to the creation of new habitats, e.g. for waterfowl. Ecological restoration has increased the attractiveness of this area, also for residents looking for recreation spaces. Finally, the successful investment was the argument

¹⁵ Wagner I., Krazue K., Zalewski M., (2013) Błękitne aspekty zielonej infrastruktury, [in:] *Zrównoważony Rozwój – Zastosowania*, nr 4/2013

¹⁶ Wagner I., Januchta-Szostak A., Waack-Zajac A., (2014) Narzędzia planowania i zarządzania strategicznego wodą w przestrzeni miejskiej, [in:] *Zrównoważony Rozwój – Zastosowania*, nr 5/2014

to integrate the system concept of the Blue-Green Network into the city planning documents¹⁷.

Social participation, striving for inclusive development

One of the targets of Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Agenda: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" is to increase the degree of social inclusiveness, sustainable urbanization and social participation in the planning and management of integrated and sustainable human settlements, in all countries, by 2030. Polish cities aim to reach this target in different ways.

Citizens' panel in Gdańsk

An interesting tool which uses social participation in sustainable spatial planning is the citizens' panel. This tool has been in use since the 1990s in Nordic and Anglo-Saxon countries, including Denmark, Australia and Ireland; whereas in Poland it is relatively new and experimental. The Polish cities which use this form of democratizing the metropolitan management process, include Lublin, Olsztyn and Gdańsk, which was the first in Poland to introduce this solution. The citizens' panel is a tool for democratic decision-making and searching for the most beneficial solutions for all groups that make up the local community. This tool is a form of the so-called deliberative democracy, namely, a democracy in which a direct discussion amongst representatives of various social groups is central to decision-making, as opposed to voting or referendums, which base only on a passive expression of will, without the possibility to argue¹⁸.

In the citizens' panel in Gdańsk, the local community is represented by a randomly selected, representative group of about 60 residents of both genders, in order to reflect the demographic structure of the city, according to the district of residence, age, gender and education. The selection takes place in two rounds. First, around 10,000 residents are randomly drawn and sent invitations to register on a special website. Then, the target number of panellists are drawn in a way that maintains the proportions resulting from the demographic categories. The panel members' goal is to work out a solution to a complex problem that poses a significant challenge for the local community¹⁹. So far, Gdańsk has discussed the preparation of the city for heavy rains (2016), improvement of air quality (2017) and support for citizens' active citizenship (2017)²⁰. The organization of the panel in Gdańsk assumes 3 meetings on subsequent weekends, each of which lasts approximately 6 hours.

¹⁷ <http://adaptcity.pl/lodz-renaturyzacja-rzeki-sokolowki-zmniejsza-ryzyko-podtopien/>

¹⁸ Gastil J., Levine P. (2005), *The Deliberative Democracy Handbook: Strategies for Effective Civic Engagement in the Twenty-First Century*, Wiley & Sons Inc., pp.336

¹⁹ Gerwin M. (2017), *Jak poprawić jakość powietrza w Gdańsku? Raport podsumowujący*, Urząd Miasta Gdańska, pp. 25 (accessed 23 May 2018) <http://www.gdansk.pl/download/2017-04/88884.pdf>

²⁰ Gdańsk.pl, Panel obywatelski (accessed 21 May 2018) <http://www.gdansk.pl/panel-obywatelski>

The first meeting is devoted to the presentation of the problem by officials, experts, representatives of non-governmental organizations; the second one – to the presentation of possible solutions and working out recommendations; finally, the third one – to discussions, votes and amendments on the recommendations. Important elements which determine the effectiveness of the citizens' panel include the political will, as well as the appropriate formula for meetings that creates an atmosphere conducive to openness and commitment. In order to achieve good results, Gdańsk has employed experienced facilitators and adopted the principles of dialogue and time discipline for the people making presentations, as well as efficiently organized the work in groups and used transparent presentations, e.g. a cost-benefit matrix²¹.

All parties related to the topic are invited to present their opinion on the citizens' panel. Institutions, organizations and individuals have the opportunity to do it in writing or in person. To ensure the proper conduct of the citizens' panel and its credibility, it is run by independent persons who are not employed by the city hall. In the case of Gdańsk, it is a non-governmental organization. The citizens' panel is accompanied by open social consultations, in which all interested residents can present their views on the matter to the panel, the president and the councillors. The panel's recommendations are binding – the premise is that they are to have a real impact on the decisions made. The required level of support for a binding recommendation is 80 percent of compliance among all panellists. In such a way, during the last citizen panel in Gdańsk, as many as 39 out of 50 recommendations were voted to be implemented²². The implementation of recommendations adopted by the citizens' panel is monitored and reported on an ongoing basis²³.

The example of Gdańsk shows that the key components of the Panel's success are: a well-prepared process which defines the principles of debating, trusting the wisdom of people, the participation of the best experts on a given topic and building an atmosphere conducive to finding solutions for the common good. Considering that the voter turnout in the local elections does not exceed 50% in Poland, the citizens' panel is an interesting experiment with civic involvement and participation.

It is worth mentioning that the democratization of the city's management process involves various types of risk. An example of this may be the direction of the evolution of participatory budgets in Polish cities. At the beginning, it was mostly the communities of progressive activists and local leaders with high cultural and

²¹ Gerwin M. (2017), *Jak poprawić jakość powietrza...*

²² Katarzyńska A. (2017), *Aż 39 rekomendacji Panelu Obywatelskiego dla gdańskiego samorządu*, (accessed 24 May 2018) <http://www.gdansk.pl/wiadomosci/Az-39-rekomendacji-panelu-obywatelskiego-dla-samorzadu,a,93962>

²³ Gerwin M. (2017), *Standardy paneli obywatelskich*, Sopotka Inicjatywa Rozwojowa (accessed 23 May 2018) <http://www.sopotkainicjatywa.org/2017/08/01/standardy-paneli-obywatelskich/>

social capital that were involved in submitting the projects for the participatory budget. In many Polish cities, it has helped to improve, for example, the bicycle infrastructure and led to the calming down of the traffic and creation of pedestrian-friendly solutions. Over time, however, increasingly more drivers and car owners began to engage in the participatory budget, initiating projects that aim to create parking spaces through taking up parts of the pavement or of traffic lanes and to eliminate non-parking zones. Local governments and officials responsible for implementing the participatory budget modify the principle of its formulation and realization every year, in order to avoid creating projects that are inconsistent with the city's development strategy and horizontal goals. This process arouses heated discussions and generates social divisions. Even with this in consideration, the citizens' panel is an alternative to taking power over the participation tools by active minorities or narrow interest groups, the polarization of the local community, or a populist correction in the local distribution of political forces²⁴.

City Contact Center Warsaw 19115

Crowdsourcing and the use of IT systems and applications for mobile devices is another strong trend in optimizing the management of the city and meeting the needs of residents. An interesting solution here is the City Contact Center Warsaw 19115, which is one of the most innovative European smart city projects based on the participation of residents. The Warsaw system, modelled on solutions used in American cities, was implemented in 2014. It is a multi-channel contact center system under one brand "19115", which is simultaneously a telephone and text message number, an application for mobile devices, a chat and a website address. The application, developed by the company Damovo, received the prestigious Digital Transformation Award by the German editorial office of the journal CRN as one of the five most innovative European projects in the field of digital transformation²⁵. Over the four years of operation, 1.3 million submissions were received, which are made by phone on average every 1.5 minutes, by more than 40 thousand users of the mobile application. All conversations between the consultants and the residents lasted 147,351 hours²⁶ in total, and the number of users increases annually by approx. 60%.

The City Contact Center Warsaw 19115 is the first integrated system of contact between residents and the local government in Poland. As one of the few of such kind in the world, it allows residents to contact the office 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Such

²⁴ Bendyk E. (2017) *Mieszkaniec obywatelem. Panel obywatelski w Gdańsku*, (accessed 23 May 2018) <https://antymatrix.blog.polityka.pl/2017/09/18/mieszkaniec-obywatelem-panel-obywatelski-w-gdansk/>

²⁵ Pressebox.de (2017) *CRN zeichnet Damovo mit dem Digital Transformation Award aus* (accessed 23 May 2018) <https://www.pressebox.de/pressemitteilung/damovo-deutschland-gmbh-co-kg/CRN-zeichnet-Damovo-mit-dem-Digital-Transformation-Award-aus/boxid/878183>

²⁶ Klimczak K. (2017), *Warszawa 19115 działa już cztery lata*, (accessed 24 May 2018) <http://www.um.warszawa.pl/aktualnosci/warszawa-19115-dzia-ju-cztery-lata>

solution gives residents the opportunity to obtain comprehensive and uniform information on services provided by the office and the city's organizational units. Warsaw residents can report all matters requiring intervention to the city administration, such as a hole in the road, destroyed greenery, an illegal garbage dump or broken traffic lights. Reporting with the use of a mobile device allows sending a photo of the problem along with its geolocation. A team of about 50 consultants receives the submissions from the residents; their task is to receive and distribute the reported matters to the relevant substantive units of the Warsaw self-government. All the reports are registered in the system and their implementation is subject to constant monitoring until the matter is resolved. Accepted reports are placed on the current map of the city on an ongoing basis, and the reporting person receives feedback information about the status of the case²⁷. With the help of the system, one can also book a visit to the office or use the sign language interpreter service, as well as submit own initiatives – ideas of changes that will make Warsaw more friendly.

The system is most often used to obtain information, as about 60 percent of calls are questions about public transport – current timetables, routes and changes recently introduced, and also inquiries on how to handle formal matters and waste collection²⁸. The next most common form of using the system are interventions, among which the most dominant are traffic problems such as incorrectly parked vehicles, damaged road surfaces, broken lighting, water supply failures or illegal garbage dumps. The interventions are forwarded to the relevant municipal services. The distribution of submissions illustrates well the most important problems faced by a growing medium-sized metropolis, such as Warsaw. Most intervention requests come from large, densely populated districts. In single-family housing estates areas, there are more reports regarding greenery and animals, and in heavily urbanized districts the most common issues relate to infrastructure and disorderly conduct²⁹.

The notification system generates a growing involvement in the city's affairs among residents, who until recently indifferently passed by the problems, and now, increasingly more often get involved in solving them. The system is flexible and enables the introduction of new services, including open applications, i.e. ideas for changes in the city which should be considered by the city's self-government. In 2017, the application was equipped with a "Plant a tree" service (part of the "Million of trees for Warsaw" programme), thanks to which residents can indicate a place where they would like to make the city greener, by taking a picture of the place with its geolocation. The

²⁷ Warszawa 19115, Incydynty [Incidents] (accessed 24 May 2018) <https://warszawa19115.pl/incydynty>

²⁸ Warszawa 19115, Szukasz informacji? [Looking for information?] (accessed 24 May 2018) <https://warszawa19115.pl/szukasz-informacji>

²⁹ Warszawa 19115, Incydynty (accessed 24 May 2018) <https://warszawa19115.pl/incydynty>

submissions are analyzed twice a year and included in the program of city plantings³⁰.

This innovative system, however, does not function without flaws, as it is a hybrid of a digital tool and the “analog” system of the city’s institutions. The modern technological solution Warsaw 19115 has not significantly changed the functioning of the procedure for submitting notifications and problems to be solved. While the information input from residents has been improved and spatialized, the interventions themselves remain solved by the same services with limited organizational and human resources. An example of this bottleneck are the notifications about incorrectly parked cars usually sent by residents through the application, straight from the street, with an attached description, photo and location on the map. From the City Contact Center, they are then sent to the city guards dispatcher, who hands them over to the employees. In practice, however, in most cases, the city guard reaches the declared vehicle after its departure, and the reporting person receives information that the inspection did not confirm the event. Thus, there is a risk that the energy of the resident, the official from the contact center, the city guard dispatcher and that of the intervening guard himself is being wasted³¹. Nevertheless, the number of notifications still allows identifying places with the largest number of problems, which in the long-term allows easier identification of areas requiring new spatial solutions, traffic organization, or zoning.

Conclusion

This text does not pretend to exhaustively elaborate on the issues raised in it, which is reflected in its title. Its aim is to raise a few topics that seem important to consider in the deliberations on the processes of balancing the development of Polish cities, especially metropolitan ones.

The examples cited here, of course, do not exhaust all measures taken by municipalities to strengthen the mechanisms for sustainable development. It is worth mentioning the ever more common – although constantly lagging behind the most advanced countries and EU directives – waste segregation and recycling, practically already introduced by all local governments. However, the results are still limited, considering that in 2016, the share of segregated waste was 25 percent of the mass of all collected waste, compared to 20 percent in 2015. The largest part is taken up by biodegradable waste, then glass, plastics and paper. In the next years, the regulations on recycling will gradually tighten, which is supposed to lead to an increase in the scope of segregation and reuse. Another example is the development of electric transport systems in cities, including not only trains and

³⁰ Klimczak K. (2017), *Warszawa 19115 działa już cztery lata* (accessed 24 May 2018) <http://www.um.warszawa.pl/aktualnosci/warszawa-19115-dzia-ju-cztery-lata>

³¹ Dominiak B. (2017), *Warszawa 19115: projekt o dwóch twarzach, Smart City Blog* (accessed 24 May 2018) <https://www.smartcityblog.pl/warszawa-19115-projekt-o-dwoch-twarzach/>

trams, but also a network of bus connections. Metropolitan systems (e.g. in the Gdańsk region³² and Kraków region) are good examples, extending far beyond single cities. Inter-communal cooperation, especially within metropolitan areas, is one of the most important factors supporting the balancing of urban development, as it allows to rationalize many processes that burden the environment and to facilitate the functioning of municipal infrastructure systems.

Poland is not yet among the most advanced countries in the practical implementation of the principles of sustainable development. However, it is necessary to emphasize the growing social awareness of the need to address, on the one hand, the principles and challenges of sustainable development and, on the other hand, the pressure of the European Union to implement its mechanisms. These two pressures: the grassroots one that is social, and the top-down one exerted by the EU, together with the examples of policies promoted by international agencies, such as UNESCO, are the most important factors forcing public authorities on all levels to implement these principles and to comply with them consistently. The progress in this area is fast and immutable. ●

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³² See *Przestrzenie relacji. Wdrażanie Agendy Miejskiej Unii Europejskiej*, Gdańsk 2018.

RCE Warsaw Metropolitan

– the first Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development in Poland acknowledged by the UN University

The United Nations University (UNU), represented by the UNU-IAS Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability, has officially acknowledged and accepted the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development (RCE Warsaw Metropolitan) under its auspices. This honorable decision was made on the basis of a recommendation issued by the members of the Ubuntu Committee of Peers for the RCEs – a scientific committee assessing the applications of institutions from around the world wishing to become Regional Expertise Centres under the auspices of UNU.

This means that the application of the University Centre for Environmental Research and Sustainable

Development (UCBS) of the University of Warsaw – the institution initiating and representing the consortium, comprised of the City of Warsaw and many capital universities, institutions and various organizations – has been positively evaluated by the international body. Thus, UNU has received a recommendation that it may allow using its logo and enter on the global map a new RCE that deals with developing social competencies in the field of sustainable development among the residents of the Warsaw Metropolitan Area.

In order to understand the importance of the acknowledgement of the Regional Centre of Expertise on Education for Sustainable



Dr Anna Kalinowska, the Chairwoman of the RCE Warsaw Metropolitan Council, speaking at the inaugural ceremony held at the University of Warsaw on April 28, 2018.
Photo: © Janusz Radziejowski



Certificate of acknowledgement of the RCE Warsaw Metropolitan by the United Nations University.

Development of the Warsaw Metropolitan Area by the UNU and the consequences of this decision for UCBS and all partners of the new RCS consortium, it is necessary to explain what the United Nations University and its affiliated network of Regional Centres of Expertise on Education for Sustainable Development actually are.

The UN University (UNU) was established at the 27th session of the UN General Assembly in 1972 as an international academic institution whose mission is to analyze the needs and decide upon research direction, as well as to disseminate their results so that they serve the purpose of meeting the most important global challenges. The establishment of the UNU was a response to the need expressed during the UN Summit on the Environment in Stockholm in 1972: to contain the great threats, such as the progressive destruction of the environment and the overexploitation of its scarce resources. In response to this need, the concept of sustainable development gradually began to take shape.

The main headquarters of UNU is Tokyo; it is also the location of its academic counterpart dedicated to sustainable development: the Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability (UNU-IAS). When, following the findings of the UN Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg in 2002, the UN General Assembly announced the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development (DESD) for the period 2005–2014, under the

auspices of UNESCO, the idea was born in UNU-IAS of creating a global network of organizations that can effectively support the implementation of the Decade at the regional level. Introducing this idea into force, in 2003, UNU-IAS proposed to create a global network of universities that would create Regional Centers around them and become the consortia of the organizations and institutions working for education on sustainable development. Entrusting such a task to universities was rightly highlighting the academic responsibility to disseminate the knowledge on sustainable development within local communities. Thus, the aim of the Regional Centres was to implement the principles of sustainable development within the framework of the ESD Decade. With the Decade's end, since 2015 this task has been continued as supporting the implementation of global Sustainable Development Goals 2030 in local communities.

Thanks to the creation of the multi-sectoral and interdisciplinary platform, bringing together institutions that complement their competences through cooperation, the Regional Centers have exceptional opportunities. They have become a ground for creating solutions for sustainable development through dialogue, education and mutual learning. They can influence policy not only at the local level, advise and prepare local leaders, equipping them with the tools and information necessary to make decisions in the future that are consistent with sustainable development. In addition, the RCEs support innovation and translate existing knowledge into concrete actions. In summary, the mission of RCE is to transfer knowledge about sustainable development to the local community and prepare the ground for implementing appropriate solutions in the region. Using the achievements of the entire RCE network enables the adaptation of global examples to local practices and allows the dissemination of developed local solutions worldwide.

Currently (as of 2017) the global network comprises of 156 RCEs, 44 of which operate in Europe. The most numerous European regional educational consortia are located in the United Kingdom, where there are as many as 6 (including 2 separate ones covering the whole of Scotland



Speakers and lecturers at the inaugural ceremony of the RCE Warsaw Metropolitan (from right): Sławomir Mazurek, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of the Environment; Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO; Prof. Maciej Nowicki, President of the EcoFund and former two-time Minister of the Environment; Prof. Jerzy Śleszyński, Director of the University Centre for Environmental Research and Sustainable Development (UCBS) and Krzysztof Walczak, from the UCBS. Photo: © Sylwester Nagórka

and Wales), and 5 in Germany. The situation in our region of Central Europe is less optimistic. In the nearest vicinity of our borders, there is RCE Czechia (affiliated to the Charles University Environment Centre) in Prague, RCE Vilnius, and RCE Hamburg and Region coordinated by the Hamburg University of Applied Sciences. The latter was the host of a biannual conference on the role of higher education in the dissemination of sustainable development in autumn 2017.

The UN University ensures that the emerging RCEs represent a sufficiently high level of education and include many partners of key importance in different areas of a given region's activities. Once a year, a deadline for submitting detailed applications is announced. In addition to the characteristics of the current economic, social and environmental situation as well as the description of the needs and challenges of the planned development of the Region, a confirmed participation of each partner and an already documented cooperation is necessary. The challenges for the region and the proposed programme of future action are assessed by the UNU-IAC Reviewer Committee.

The initiative to apply for an RCE in Poland came from the UNU itself, whose representative assessed highly the previous activity of the University Centre for Environmental Research and

Sustainable Development (UCBS), presented on the Educational Forum during the Conference of Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity.

UCBS is currently an inter-faculty unit of the University of Warsaw, conducting environmental protection studies (MSOŚ) and various forms of activities dedicated to popularizing the Sustainable Development Goals in the academic environment and other social groups and in cooperation with various partners. The initiative of integrating education for sustainable development in the capital region was also joined by other units of the University of Warsaw (Faculty of Management, Botanical Garden, EUROREG, University Centre for Technology Transfer) and other Warsaw education institutions: SGGW, UKSW, Koźminski University and the Maria Grzegorzewska University. Grassroots education was included in the curriculum of the Zielony Zakątek Kindergarten. The key partners were the City of Warsaw and the Kampinos National Park. The consortium also included a number of associations and non-governmental organizations: the Institute for Sustainable Development Foundation, the Society of Polish Town Planners, the Institute of Spatial Management and Housing, the UNEP-GRID Centre, the Earth and People Foundation, and the Foundation for Sustainable Development. The wide range of competences is complemented by



Representatives of institutions making up the RCE Warsaw Metropolitan consortium or cooperating with the RCE on a daily basis. Photo: © Sylwester Nagórka

cultural institutions and organizations, such as the Centre of Culture and Civic Initiatives from Podkowa Leśna, Warsaw Friends Association, or the Education Centre of the Wilanów Palace.

A letter of recommendation and support to the entire initiative was sent to the UNU by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO.

The RCE programme for Warsaw Metropolitan Area, apart from statutory education conducted according to the character of each partner, entails mainly integration and mutual complementation of activities, information flow (e.g. about training or conferences) and administrating a shared website. Furthermore, an inventory is planned of the educational materials available in the region and a virtual trip is proposed that recommends the most accurate objects and initiatives which implement the principles of sustainable development in the Warsaw Metropolitan Area.

So far, this has been only a modest, minimal programme since the requests for funding have only just started. However, the benefits of being admitted to the global RCE network are already obvious at this phase. First of all, it is the recognition of UCBS and other partners and institutions cooperating within the RCE Warsaw Metropolitan by the University of the United Nations and the possibility to use the logo and other forms of UNU-IAS recommendation. Furthermore, the membership grants access to publications and specialized didactic materials prepared by UNU, as well as to the exchange of experiences and cooperation with other Regional Expert Centres within the framework of global and continental networks. The membership in the network also guarantees a quick access to information, among others, about grants, scholarships, etc.

At the national level, the UNU logo is a recommendation for those interested in using the opportunities offered by such a diversified consortium of partners. Formalizing (beneficial e.g. due to applying for grants) the cooperation with a large number of different institutions in the region and tightening the cooperation with the City Hall also gives a sense of community of interests and mutual support in the difficult implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Warsaw Metropolitan RCE also creates a good opportunity to promote each of the partners as a leader in their field of education for sustainable development in a given region.

After receiving a certificate confirming admission to the global “family” of the RCE from UNU, a ceremonial inauguration of RCE Warsaw Metropolitan took place on April 28, at the Tyszkiewicz-Potocki Palace – the representative hall of the University of Warsaw. During the inauguration, numerous representatives of the Warsaw RCE consortium, authorities of the universities belonging to it, and honorary guests from various institutions, including the City Hall, the Ministry of Environment and the National Fund for Environmental Protection, listened to two important professorial speeches. Professor Maciej Nowicki (former two-time Minister of Environment and President of the EcoFund) stressed the role of education as a condition for the universal adoption of the principles of sustainable development. Prof. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO – the institution granting the patronage to RCE – raised in his speech the importance of culture as an inalienable sphere of sustainable development. Together, both speeches make up a very important message: the path to a universal culture of sustainable development leads through education. This statement, especially in relation to the Warsaw RCE, should be the motto of its mission. ●

Anna Kalinowska

Dr Anna Kalinowska is the Chairwoman of the RCE Warsaw Metropolitan Council. In years 1999–2017, she was Director of the University Centre for Environmental Studies and Sustainable Development, an inter-faculty unit of the University of Warsaw.

UNESCO Creative Cities Network Programme

“People resources have supplanted natural resources as the main source of competitiveness. Human talent, skills and creativity are replacing location, natural resources, undifferentiated pools of labour and market access as the central urban resources. The inventiveness and innovations of those who live in, work in and run cities determine their future success”¹. Charles Landry, a British urbanist and expert in sustainable urban development, author of the creative city concept is an advisor to the UNESCO Creative Cities Network Programme initiated in 2004.

The Programme aims at supporting and promoting cooperation between the cities which base their development on various creative industries. Cities obtain the title of Creative City in recognition for their innovative urban policies based on culture and creativity. By joining the Network, the cities commit to cooperate and share best practices, develop a partnership which promotes creativity, strengthen the participation of the cities’ citizens in cultural life and include culture in the urban development plans. The urban strategy based on such principles facilitates building a robust, integrated and diverse society, thanks to which the city develops in a sustainable way.

Currently, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network is comprised of 180 cities from 72 countries, awarded with titles in one of the 7 creative fields:

Literature, Music, Film, Media Arts, Design, Crafts & Folk Arts and Gastronomy. Three Polish cities belong to this group: Kraków (since 2013) as a City of Literature, Katowice (since 2015) as a City of Music, and Łódź (since 2017) as a City of Film.

Why is it worth becoming a Creative City

Participating in the programme does not only bring prestige and improve the city’s public relations based on the chosen creative field; most importantly, it allows to create custom programmes of supporting local creative entourages and cooperating with the cities from the entire world that participate in the programme. The cities participating in the Network point out various socio-economic benefits of the membership: strengthening the innovation thanks to the transfer of knowledge and technology, increasing the investment attractiveness or the development of the creative tourism, tied to festivals, museums, artistic ventures, interesting architecture or well-known film locations. The membership in the Network enables cooperation between cities



UNESCO
CREATIVE
CITIES
NETWORK

**XII ANNUAL MEETING
CREATIVE CROSSROADS**
KRAKOWICE | Kraków—Katowice

Official logo of the XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

¹ Charles Landry “*The Creative City: A Toolkit for Urban Innovators*”, p. xxxiii. Routledge, 2012

in organizing various projects in a given creative field and the exchange of experiences with partner cities. The city's membership in the Network also brings numerous benefits to its residents. The title guarantees an increased prestige of the city on the international arena, and the world-recognized creative city brand is a mark of quality; thus, it becomes an incentive that attracts tourists to the place, which in turn gives the development of the local economy an additional boost. The title of UNESCO Creative city also creates numerous opportunities for the promotion of the events, products, and services related to the creative sector on the foreign markets, as well as the possibility to use the logo of UNESCO programme.

Creative Cities Network and Sustainable Development

The UNESCO Creative Cities network programme is a partner to UNESCO in the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda established by the UN in 2015, as well as the 2016 New Urban Agenda. The Sustainable Development Goals envisage a new future, which can be achieved through cooperation and joint action. For the first time, there is a clear reference, in an international agenda, to culture as a field that has a direct impact on the standard of living of societies and individuals, on the potential to reduce areas of poverty, and on the creation of civil societies.

In response to these challenges, the UNESCO Creative Cities Network serves as an international platform for cooperation between cities that consider the creative sector and creativity in general to be the tools to build a better, more peaceful,

and more friendly reality for the citizens. The cities unite to jointly achieve the Agenda Goals, which include priorities, such as eradicating poverty, providing quality education for all, and tackling social inequalities. The individual programmes and projects conducted by the member cities serve the practical implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals outlined in the 2030 Agenda.

Polish cities in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network

Kraków, a UNESCO City of Literature

Kraków is the first Polish city that joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2013. Since then, the city of Wisława Szymborska, Czesław Miłosz, Stanisław Lem and Joseph Conrad has created from scratch a comprehensive urban strategy for the development of reading and support for the local book industry, the implementation of programmes promoting young and emerging writers, the development of cultural activities in bookstores and cooperation with publishers, at the same time hosting the leading national and regional festivals devoted to Joseph Conrad and Czesław Miłosz, further developing the largest Polish book fair and creating innovative campaigns, such as CzytajPL! (ReadPL!), which make use of new technologies in the promotion of reading. From 2014 to 2018, Kraków, as a City of Literature, chaired the UNESCO Cities of Literature Steering Committee. The network consists of 28 Cities of Literature: Baghdad (Iraq), Barcelona (Spain), Bucheon (Republic of Korea), Dublin (Ireland), Dunedin (New Zealand), Durban (South



Artistic events in front of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra seat in Katowice.
Photo: © Radosław Kaźmierczak



The conference "Creative Cities and Industries", accompanying the XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, held in Katowice, June 16, 2018.
Photo: © Radosław Kaźmierczak

Africa), Edinburgh (United Kingdom), Granada (Spain), Heidelberg (Germany), Iowa City (USA), Kraków (Poland), Lillehammer (Norway), Ljubljana (Slovenia), Lviv (Ukraine), Manchester (United Kingdom), Melbourne (Australia), Milan (Italy), Montevideo (Uruguay), Norwich (United Kingdom), Nottingham (United Kingdom), Óbidos (Portugal), Prague (Czechia), Québec (Canada), Reykjavik (Iceland), Seattle (USA), Tartu (Estonia), Utrecht (Netherlands), and Ulyanovsk (Russian Federation).

Katowice, a UNESCO City of Music

Katowice joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2015. This young, dynamically developing city with an industrial past, has for years been associated primarily with a thriving heavy industry. Katowice today attracts with great summer music festivals (Off Festival, New Music), as well as symphonic concerts in the eminent hall of the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra. It is a city of an impressive composing school tradition, with Henryk Mikołaj Górecki and Wojciech Kilar; a dynamic amateur music movement, and an undisputed contribution to the development of Polish jazz (Jazz and Popular Music Department at the Academy of Music in Katowice) and blues (Rawa Blues Festival – the largest indoor blues festival in the world). The international dimension of Katowice's activity in the world of music has been confirmed by granting the city the right to organize The World Music Expo (WOMEX) in November 2017. It was the first edition of this most important event in the world music industry in Poland. Currently, 29 cities in the world hold the name of UNESCO City of Music: Adelaide

(Australia), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Amarante (Portugal), Auckland (New Zealand), Bogota (Colombia), Bologna (Italy), Brazzaville (Republic of the Congo), Brno (Czechia), Daegu (Republic of Korea), Frutillar (Chile), Ghent (Belgium), Glasgow (United Kingdom), Hamamatsu (Japan), Hannover (Germany), Idanha-a-Nova (Portugal), Kansas City (USA), Katowice (Poland), Kingston (Jamaica), Kinshasa (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Liverpool (United Kingdom), Mannheim (Germany), Medellin (Colombia), Morelia (Mexico), Pesaro (Italy), Praia (Cape Verde), Salvador (Brazil), Sevilla (Spain), Tongyeong (Republic of Korea), and Varanasi (India).

Łódź, a UNESCO City of Film

Łódź joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in 2017. It is the third creative city of UNESCO in Poland and indisputably the country's film capital. Nearly a half thousand companies associated with the film industry operate here, drawing from the unique heritage of the Warsaw Documentary Film Studio (*Wytwórnia Filmów Fabularnych*), where the greatest masterpieces of Polish cinema had been created, and the Łódź Film Fund (*Łódzki Fundusz Filmowy*) provides comprehensive support for production. Three public high schools have for years been educating staff for the film industry in Poland. The Łódź Film School (*Łódzka Szkoła Filmowa*), known around the world, develops the talents of the most outstanding creators of Polish and world cinema: directors, cinematographers, actors and producers. The Academy of Fine Arts educates future prop and costume designers, set designers and lighting specialists, animators,



Ernesto Ottone Ramirez, UNESCO ADG/CLT, speaking at the opening ceremony of the XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, Kraków, June 12, 2018. Photo: © Edyta Dufaj



Jyoti Hosagrahar, Director of the Division for Creativity, at the opening ceremony in Kraków, June 14, 2018. Photo: © Alicja Wróblewska



Professor Jacek Purchla, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, opening the XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in Kraków, June 12, 2018. Photo: © Edyta Dufaj

multimedia graphic designers and art critics, and the Academy of Music offers studies in the fields of film music composition, sound production and media music. The Department of Film History and Theory at the University of Łódź is the longest existing university film research center in Poland. Since 2015, the National Centre for Film Culture, which is the coordinator of activities related to the city's participation in the Creative Cities Network, has been operating in Łódź. The City of Film Network comprises 13 cities: Bitola (Macedonia), Bradford (United Kingdom), Bristol (United Kingdom), Busan (Republic of Korea), Galway (Ireland), Łódź (Poland), Rome (Italy), Santos (Brazil), Sofia (Bulgaria), Sydney (Australia), Qingdao (China), Terrassa (Spain) and Yamagata (Japan).

UNESCO Creative Cities Annual Meeting Krakowice 2018

Creative Cities organize Annual Meetings every year. They are meeting places for experts, scientists, artists, mayors, presidents and urban decision-makers representing member cities from all around the world. The Annual Meeting is an opportunity to exchange views and experiences on how to use culture and creativity in forming a responsible urban strategy. The Annual Meetings allow members of the Network to jointly consider the new possibilities offered by the programme. They stimulate cooperation and partnership between cities.

In June 2018, Kraków and Katowice, jointly referred to as "Krakowice", hosted the XII Annual Meeting of the Creative Cities Network. For the first time in the history of the Creative Cities Network, the Annual Meeting was co-organized by two

member cities. Although each of them specializes in a different area of culture and creativity, both have one thing in common: placing creativity at the centre of their activity and recognizing it as one of the most important factors of development.

On June 12–16, 2018, over 350 delegates from 180 cities visited Poland to debate on the further development of the Network. The Annual Meeting was attended by representatives of UNESCO with the Assistant Director-General for Culture, Ernesto Ottone Ramirez and Director of the UNESCO Section for Creativity, Jyoti Hosagrahar, as well as Francesca Merloni, the UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador for Creative Cities, the mayors of Kraków and Katowice and of 40 cities – members of the Network, representatives of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, artists, intellectuals and urban decision-makers. The topic of the congress, "Creative Crossroads", as an idea of inter-sectoral cooperation between Creative Cities, indicated the strategic directions of the development of the Network, aimed at creating intercultural connections and creative intersections between the urban culture sectors. During the meeting, members of the Network presented the results of joint initiatives and drew up plans for joint projects and programmes, placing culture and creativity at the foundation of sustainable urban development. The four-day debates in both cities consisted of plenary sessions, a Mayor's Forum, subnetwork sessions, interdisciplinary workshops and sessions of city steering committees.

The Annual Meeting of Creative Cities was an opportunity to present the initiative LAB.2030 launched by the UNESCO Secretariat. It is a platform for presenting various examples of implementation



The ElectroKilar Band concert held at the NOSPR Concert Hall in Katowice, July 14, 2018, as part of the Artistic Evening accompanying the XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Photo: © Radosław Kaźmierczak



Thematic workshops at the Museum of Municipal Engineering in Kraków, June 14, 2018. Photo: © Alicja Wróblewska

of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals through local thematic initiatives run by the cities. LAB.2030 aims to record and popularize such examples.

During the conference, the “Mayors Declaration” was adopted, which referred to the key task of the Creative Cities Network – the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through innovative local activities in the field of culture. In the document, the city presidents reaffirmed their commitment to implement the 2030 Agenda Goals, particularly its Goal 11: to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”.

The cooperation model, based on partnership as an indispensable condition for creativity, presented by Kraków and Katowice, won great recognition among the cities – members of the Network, and the combined activities of both cities allowed for an effective and attractive presentation of their rich cultural offer in a special artistic program, which included, among others, Miłosz Festival, Bread Festival, The Gardens of Sounds World Music Festival, and the ElectroKilar Concert at the Polish National Radio Symphony Orchestra Hall. The Congress was accompanied by the “Creative Cities and Industries” conference (16 June in Katowice), which summarized the deliberations of the UNESCO Creative Cities representatives and of the working groups of the seven creative fields.

In 2019, the host of the creative cities Annual Meeting will be Fabriano in Italy, a Creative City of Crafts and Folk Art. The meeting will be devoted to the theme “The Ideal City”.

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Joanna Markiewicz



Organizers and participants of the XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network in Katowice, June 15, 2018. Photo: © Radosław Kaźmierczak

XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network Krakow & Katowice (Poland), 12-15 June 2018

Mayors Declaration

We, the Mayors of the UNESCO Creative Cities, gathered in Kraków and Katowice, Poland, from 12 to 15 June 2018, on the occasion of the XII Annual Meeting of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), affirm the strategic role of culture and creativity in building inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

We wish to thank UNESCO for providing member cities with the opportunity to take part in international discussions on culture and urban development and showcase their experience and innovative solutions on the international stage.

We wish a warm welcome to the 64 new cities who joined us in 2017 and welcome the expansion of the knowledge field and the improvement of the geographical balance within the Network.

We reiterate our commitment to the Network’s Mission Statement and Strategic Framework, further integrating culture and creativity within initiatives, policies and projects implemented at the local level, with a view to facilitate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the New Urban Agenda, in close partnership with UNESCO. This includes a commitment to promoting diversity, gender equality and youth empowerment.

We also reiterate our commitment towards strengthened cooperation between our member cities and consolidated institutional arrangements, with a view to further exchange good practices, as well as facilitate crossed experimentation and innovation.

Recognizing the need to ensure financial sustainability of the Network, we wish to thank UNESCO for its essential commitment towards the Network’s activities and programmes. We endorse the reflection engaged by UNESCO to establish a governance mechanism for the Network, with a view to anticipate and support its future development.

Polish ASPnet in 2018

One hundred Polish schools belong to the UNESCO Associated Schools Project Network (ASPnet), currently associating approximately 11500 education institutions in 182 countries. The number of Polish institutions has recently decreased, due to the school reform introduced in 2017, which has brought about closing of lower-secondary schools (*gimnazja*) in the country. On the other hand, there are currently thirteen schools on the candidates list. The

largest number of ASPnet schools in Poland work in the Mazowieckie, Śląskie, Małopolskie and Dolnośląskie provinces.

UNESCO Associated Schools are innovative institutions which use modern educational methods. They are open for cooperation in the joint implementation of both national and international projects and welcome the opportunity to enrich their curricula with the knowledge and universal values promoted by UNESCO.



Participants of the II Secondary School in Zabrze double anniversary: 70th anniversary of the school's foundation and 40th anniversary of its ASPnet membership. Photo: © Paweł Janicki

During the 39th session of the UNESCO General Conference in October 2017, new guidelines for the ASPnet were adopted. A new website was created as a cooperation platform for schools all over the world. Moreover, a meeting of national coordinators from Europe and North America was held in Kazan (Russia), in September 2018, aiming at discussing the introduction of the new guidelines and tools in the ASPnet cooperation worldwide.

The UNESCO Associated Schools are one of the most important networks for disseminating the knowledge related to the Agenda for Sustainable Development 2030, adopted by the United Nations in 2015, and for shaping the attitudes of the young generation supporting the implementation of the Agenda's 17 Goals.

Among the most common forms of ASPnet's activity is the organization of school or local celebrations – anniversaries and days devoted to important topics, established by UNESCO and the UN, which draw attention to the problems of the modern world. The most celebrated days in Polish schools were related to human rights, tolerance, mother tongue, poetry and water. The schools participated in UNESCO's flagship projects, such as the Baltic Sea Project, World Heritage in Young Hands and the Global Action Week

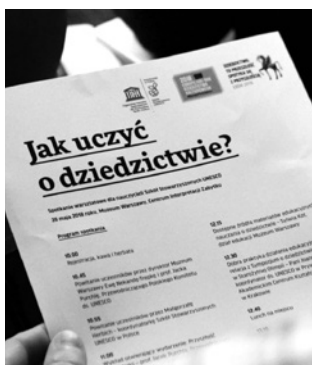
for Education. They implemented many aid projects, both in Poland and in African countries, as well as in war-torn Syria. The schools also participated in or organized themselves nine UN Model sessions in Poland and abroad.

In May 2018, Polish school coordinators met at the seminar "How to teach about heritage", organized in cooperation with the Museum of Warsaw. The event was held under the patronage of the International Cultural Centre in Kraków, as part of the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018. The motto of the EYCH: "Sharing heritage" perfectly expresses the idea and purpose of the seminar, which was a discussion on the ways of teaching about heritage. Addressing the teachers, Professor Jacek Purchla, the President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, stressed that the celebrations "are primarily aimed at bringing out the most of our local activity, increasing the chances of dialogue on issues relevant to the meeting of the future and the past". The seminar created, among others, an opportunity to establish or refresh contacts and cooperation between school coordinators, and resulted in the creation of a discussion list for a quick and direct exchange of ideas and experiences.

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Professor Jacek Purchla lecturing at the seminar „How to teach about heritage” held in the Museum of Warsaw, May 2018. Photo: © Grażyna Kułakowska / Archives Museum of Warsaw



Polish ASPnet teachers during workshops organized as part of the seminar "How to teach about heritage", held in the Museum of Warsaw on May 28, 2018. Photo: © Grażyna Kułakowska / Archives Museum of Warsaw



Participants of the seminar "How to teach about heritage". Photo: © Grażyna Kułakowska / Archives Museum of Warsaw

UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Engineering

The programme, carried out in cooperation with the UNESCO Secretariat and the UNESCO national commissions, is addressed to young scientists, mainly from African countries, as well as from South America, Asia, Arab countries and Eastern Europe. The topic of the fellowships, which are co-financed by UNESCO and the Government of the Republic of Poland, is related to the current UNESCO priorities and includes engineering and technical sciences. The participants of these 6-month lasting programme hold scientific fellowships at the AGH University of Science and Technology in Kraków, one of the best and most advanced Polish universities, which has occupied a leading positions

in the university rankings for many years. In 2017, the AGH University of Science and Technology received a total of 72 scholars from 35 countries. The AGH University fellowships programme covers several dozen research programs prepared by the academic staff of AGH. In addition to scientific projects, the AGH authorities, together with the Centre of International Promotion of Technology and Education AGH/UNESCO, organize a rich cultural program for the fellowship holders, including the Multicultural Day during which the participants present the culture and traditions of their countries.

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IV edition of workshops for Belarusian conservators

1st October 2017 marked the beginning of the 4th edition of workshops for young conservators from Belarus, organized jointly by the Polish National Commission for UNESCO, the National Centre for Culture and the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw. Three 4th year students of the Faculty of Sculpture and Decorative Art from the Belarusian State Academy of Arts in Minsk, recommended by the authorities of the Academy, qualified to participate in the 8-month internship programme. The internship holders carried out the programme activities at the Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art at the Academy of Fine

Arts in Warsaw, under the scientific supervision of the Academy lecturers. In addition, during the internship, they participated in a Polish language course organized by the Centre of Polish Language and Culture for Foreigners "Polonicum". The organization of the workshops was possible thanks to the funding from the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage. The workshop programme aims at developing scientific exchange and improving the quality of education of young restorers, who deal with the conservation of cultural heritage in Belarus.

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Fellowships in Conservation and Archaeology

In 2017, a new UNESCO/Poland Co-Sponsored Fellowships Programme in Conservation and Archaeology was launched, as a joint initiative of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw, supported by UNESCO and the Polish Ministry of Science and Higher Education. The programme aims to share experiences of the Polish school of Mediterranean archaeology, created by prof. Kazimierz Michałowski, with archaeologists and conservators from countries threatened or affected by armed conflicts. These are mainly the countries of the Middle East.

Within the programme, eight-month research fellowships are available, during which the fellows undergo individual research internships in the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw, the Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw and the Faculty of Conservation of the Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń. The pilot programme started in the academic year of 2017/2018. Three fellows participated in the programme, two persons from Egypt: a conservator of paper from the Alexandrian Library and a conservator of metal from the Grand Egyptian Museum-Conservation Centre (GEM-CC) in Giza, as well as an archaeologist from the National Museum in Aleppo, Syria.

Five fellows participate in the 2018/2019 edition of the programme: a conservator of paper from

the Alexandrian Library in Egypt, an archaeologist from the The National Heritage Institute of Tunisia and three archaeologists and conservators from Sudan.

The launch of this new programme has been based on many years of experience of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO's fellowships programme for young scientists from various countries. Over the years, archaeologists and conservators have also been coming to Poland



Hadeer Shawky Abdallah, a conservator from the Alexandrian Library holding her diploma as participant of the UNESCO/Poland Fellowship Programme.

Photo: © Agnieszka Szymczak / Centre of Archaeology UW

to take part in internships at various universities, as part of the fellowship programme.

In 2017 and 2018, 35 specialists benefited from fellowships in the field of conservation and archaeology. The Institute of Archaeology of the University of Warsaw received 20 fellows.

They were from Armenia (1 person), Bolivia (1), Georgia (5), Iran (1), Peru (6), Syria (2), and Ukraine (4). Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań offered fellowships to 5 fellows: 3 from Sudan and 2 from

Iraq. Similarly to previous years, Lublin University of Technology organized in autumn a 3-month conservation courses for specialists from Ukraine, attended by 12 fellows in 2017 and 11 in 2018.

Due to the development of the fellowship programme cooperation between the Polish National Commission for UNESCO and the University of Warsaw, in January 2018, a long-standing cooperation agreement was signed by both institutions. ●

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The official ceremony of presenting diplomas to the UNESCO/Poland Fellowship holders in the fields of conservation and archaeology. Photo: © Agnieszka Szymczak / Centre of Archaeology UW

Polish anniversaries celebrated under the auspices of UNESCO

The list of anniversaries celebrated under UNESCO's patronage in 2017 included two Polish anniversaries: the 100th anniversary of the death of Ludwik Zamenhof and the 200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko. 2017 was also proclaimed by the Polish Parliament (the Sejm and the Senate) as the Year of Kościuszko, and its celebrations received patronage from the President of the Republic of Poland.

The resolution to grant UNESCO patronage to 53 anniversaries, including the two Polish ones, proposed by Member States, was approved by the UNESCO General Conference at its 38th session in November 2015. Every two years, outstanding personalities and important historic events of unquestionable regional or global significance are inscribed on the UNESCO list of anniversaries. The anniversaries provide an opportunity to organize wide-ranging celebrations at the national and international level, in order to promote the achievements of culture and science and important historic events, both in the home country and worldwide, and gives these anniversaries international meaning.

200th anniversary of the death of Tadeusz Kościuszko (1746-1817)

Tadeusz Kościuszko has a special place in the pantheon of national heroes. He is a symbol of freedom and the model of a patriot; an outstanding military commander, engineer and statesman who attached great importance to the ideals of freedom and tolerance. Thomas Jefferson, one of the authors of the American Declaration of Independence, called Kościuszko the truest son of freedom, paying homage to him in connection with his activities in the United States of America.

The rich programme of celebrations of Tadeusz Kościuszko's anniversary included many events organized by various institutions at home and

around the world, including the Kościuszko Mound Committee in Kraków, Kościuszko Foundation Poland in Warsaw, Kosciuszko Heritage Inc. with headquarters in Australia, and The Kościuszko Foundation Representative Office in Poland. An international conference "Integration around Kościuszko" ("Integracja wokół Kościuszki") took place in Kraków (12–15 October 2017) with the participation of the representatives of Kościuszko organizations from several countries around the world, accompanied by a Youth Congress, gathering schools named after Tadeusz Kościuszko. In addition, an International Kościuszko Symposium was organized in Garwolin, Żelechów and Maciejowice by the Kościuszko Foundation Poland (6–7 October 2017), and on 25 October 2017, the Warsaw Kościuszko Session took place in the Adam Mickiewicz Museum of Literature. A number of exhibitions devoted to Kościuszko's memory were prepared, to mention only: "A Man of Sense and Sensibility" ("Rozważny i romantyczny") organized in the Krzysztofory Palace in Kraków by the Historical Museum of the City of Kraków, and an exhibition of paintings from the Kościuszko Foundation Collection in New York organized in the



Palace on the Isle, in the Royal Łazienki Museum in Warsaw (19 October 2017–15 April 2018). The celebrations of the anniversary of Tadeusz Kościuszko were actively attended by Polish Diasporas and Polish embassies, including those in Australia, USA, Switzerland, France and Thailand, which organized together an international competition “Kosciuszko Bicentenary”, initiated by the Kosciuszko Heritage Inc. in three categories: music, graphics and art. In addition, several publications devoted to Kościuszko were issued, as well as collector’s coins with his image. In Maciejowice, the site of the tragic battle of 1794, a Kościuszko Rally was held, connected with a competition on the knowledge of Kościuszko’s independence-related activities tied to this place.

100th anniversary of the death of Ludwik Zamenhof (1859-1917)

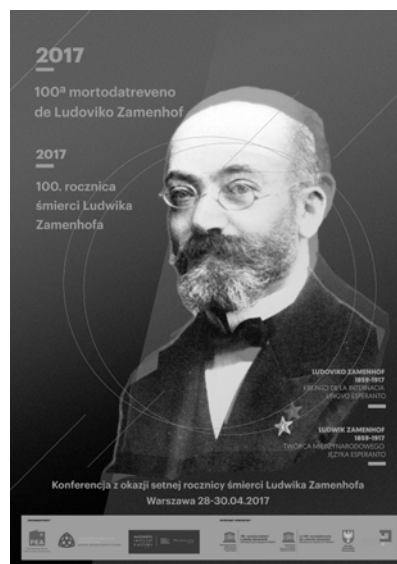
Ludwik Zamenhof, the creator of the international language Esperanto, was born and raised in the multinational environment of the community of Białystok, which became an inspiration for him to create the international language. The idea of Ludwik Zamenhof was to look for a way to communicate with people that would transcend cultural and social diversity. He believed that the main cause of misunderstandings and disputes between people is the language barrier, to which one common language would be the solution. The Esperanto language as a carrier of Esperanto culture, created by Ludwik Zamenhof, was inscribed on the National List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in 2014.

The celebrations commemorating the anniversary were organized by the city of Białystok, which prepared numerous cultural and educational events at the birthplace of Zamenhof. The main celebrations took place in May during the 36th Polish Congress of Esperantists, gathering people from Poland and from around the world. The 3-day programme included lectures, shows and concerts, a publication in the Esperanto language, as well as walks around Białystok and visits to places associated with Zamenhof and the Esperanto movement. The University of Białystok was the organizer of the international scientific conference entitled “Social and political aspects of the cultural and linguistic situation of the world in the period of globalization. What remains after Ludwik Zamenhof’s work” (29 September 2017). In Warsaw, the Polish Association of Esperantists organized a conference in the Mazovia Institute of Culture, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the death of Ludwik Zamenhof (28–30 April 2017). The project partner, Polin Museum of the History of Polish Jews, invited the participants of the conference for a walk along Zamenhof’s pre-war street. In cooperation with the Permanent Delegation of Poland to UNESCO, the World Esperanto Association organized the conference #Globalization, #Internet, #The UNESCO Courier: what about esperanto 100 years after the death of Zamenhof? in the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, on December 11, 2017. It was a summary of the year-round celebrations taking place in many places around the world. The conference was accompanied by an exhibition prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Conference „Globalization, Internet, The UNESCO Courier: what about esperanto 100 years after the death of Zamenhof”, held on December 11, 2017 at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris. Photo: © Aleksandra Modzelewska/Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO



Official poster of the Conference organized on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Ludwik Zamenhof’s death. April 28–30, 2017, the Mazovia Institute of Culture in Warsaw.

Events under UNESCO patronage in 2017 and 2018

Brave Festival – Against Cultural Exile

13th edition of the Brave Festival "Visible/Invisible" (13–22 July 2018).

Brave Festival is the only Polish review of cultures, traditions and rituals from around the world that are on the verge of extinction. Created in 2005 on the initiative of the Song of the Goat Theatre in Wrocław, the festival has been inviting exceptional artists from around the world for over a dozen years,

to present their traditions during performances, concerts, film reviews and workshops. The 13th edition of the festival, under the slogan "Visible/Invisible", shows exceptional artists, usually not seen on the modern-world stages, who play a huge role in the life of local communities. During the festival, the extraordinary artists talk about various reasons for marginalization – political, economic and moral ones.



Ghetto Classics (Kenya) & Meninas de Sinha (Brazil).
Photo: © Mateusz Bral



Albino Revolution Cultural Troupe (Tanzania).
Photo: © Mateusz Bral



ILL-Abilities. International break dance group.
Photo: © Mateusz Bral



Lukas Avendano (Mexico). Photo: © Mateusz Bral

Brave Kids

Brave Kids is an educational and artistic project, creating a meeting ground for children artistic groups from all over the world for whom practising art is a form of work to change their social situation. Over 300 children and adolescents along with their tutors from 20 European, Asian and African countries take part in the event every year. The 9th edition of Brave Kids, organized by the Song of the Goat Theatre, was held on 30 May–11 September 2018 in several cities in Poland: Leszno, Siechnice, Wrocław, Radziejowice, Rzeszów, Wałbrzych, Przemyśl, Białystok and Oborniki Śląskie, as well as abroad: in Ukraine, Georgia, Romania and Slovakia.



Grand Finale in Hala Stulecia (Centennial Hall) in Wrocław, on 8 July 2018. Photo: © Piotr Spigiel/Brave Kids



Workshops „Kids teach kids” in Oborniki Śląskie, from 1 to 10 July 2018. Photo: © Piotr Spigiel/Brave Kids

17th and 18th World Folk Review “Integration”

The Poznań University of Physical Education and the “Integrations” (“Integracje”) Sport and Culture Association are organizers of the festival, which takes place in several cities of Greater Poland. The 17th edition of the Festival was organized on 8-17 August 2017 and the next, 18th edition – on 10-20 August 2018. “Integration” is one of the largest cultural events in the region, attracting the residents of Greater Poland for over ten years to meetings with world folk culture.

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World Folk Review INTEGRATION, Croatian folk dance performance. Photo: © A. Kucharska



World Folk Review INTEGRATION, Spanish folk dance performance, Photo: © A. Kucharska



World Folk Review INTEGRATION, Canadian folk dance performance, Photo: © A. Kucharska

Polish National Commission's Honorary Patronage

2017

Conferences

- II Digital Youth Forum at the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw, organized by the We Give Children Strength Foundation (25 May 2017).
- Scientific conference "Cyberspace and virtual worlds. Digital didactics – beyond the limits of imagination", organized by The Maria Grzegorzewska University (Warsaw, 6–7 June 2017).
- III International Conference "EDUCATION – INNOVATION. Man at school", organized by the Sławęcin Association of Local Initiatives, Youth Sociotherapy Centre in Ryszewko, Grupa Edukacyjna 21, European Association of School Psychologists and Pedagogues and the Center of Non-formal and Outdoor Education in Czarnocin, (Szczecin, 30 September 2017).
- International Conference "Protection of Cultural Property in case of special threats – selected aspects of evacuation of persons and goods", organized by The Fire Service College in Kraków and the National Headquarters of the State Fire Service, in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, the Polish Blue Shield Committee and the Małopolska Region Headquarters of the State Fire Service in Kraków (International Cultural Centre in Kraków, 20–22 September 2017).
- Conference "Solidarity with children. 50th Anniversary of the Polish OMEP Committee", (Gdańsk, 6 October 2017).
- International Conference "Education for Peace – challenges and prospects of the global age", organized by the Faculty of Pedagogy of the A. Gieysztor Pułtusk Academy of Humanities, in cooperation with the Association for Supporting Intercultural Education (Pułtusk, 9–10 October 2017).
- Scientific conference "Processing audiovisual and photographic documentation in digital archive information systems", organized by the Institute of National Remembrance (Warsaw, 27 October 2017).
- International conference "Understanding Learning – Changing Education Towards Education for Sustainable Development", organized by the Maria Grzegorzewska University and the World Organization for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) (Warsaw, 24 November 2017).
- Nationwide scientific conference "Festivals, competitions, reviews in the safeguarding of the intangible cultural heritage", organized by the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin – UMCS (Lublin, 7–8 December 2017).
- X International Conference on "Respect for Human Rights and Freedoms: The Global Contexts", organized by the Faculty of Organization and Management of the Silesian University of Technology in Zabrze (10 December 2017).

Competitions and Olympiads

- IX edition of the competition "Polish Village – the Heritage and the Future", organized by the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture. The competition serves to draw attention to the role of culture and heritage protection in rural areas and to enrich the public debate on the cultural heritage of the Polish countryside.
- I edition of the Digital Olympiad, organized by the Modern Poland Foundation (November 2016–April 2017).
- XXIII National Competition for the "Literary Arbut Laurel"¹, organized by the II Secondary

¹ "Arbut" (Watermelon), a colloquial phrase describing someone knowledgeable

School in Tomaszów Mazowiecki (UNESCO Associated School), (November 2017).

- V Interschool Knowledge Competition About Zabrze, organized by the II Secondary School in Zabrze (UNESCO Associated School) (24 November 2017).

Festivals and concerts

- VI edition of Katowice JazzArt Festival, organized by Katowice – City of Gardens, Krystyna Bochenek Institution of Culture (25–30 April 2017).
- VI International Youth Festival in Krosno, organized by the Stanisław Pigoń State Higher Vocational School in Krosno (17–19 May 2017).
- The Lost Museum Project, organized as a part of the Long Night of Museums, by the Ad Artis SAR Art Foundation (Lorentz's Courtyard, National Museum in Warsaw, 20 May 2017).
- XXVII International Festival of Fine Arts "Color Art" in Goleniów, organized by the Goleniów Community Centre (1–3 June 2017).
- Open Gardens Festival (Podkowa Leśna 2–4 June 2017; Józefów, 9–11 June 2017; Sadyba, 9–11 June 2017).
- X edition of Summer Jazz Academy in Łódź, organized by the Wytwórnia Foundation (Wytwórnia Club in Łódź, 18 July–31 August 2017).
- World premiere of Anton Rubinstein's world sacral opera "Moses", performed by Polish Orchestra Sinfonia Iuventus, directed by Michał Jurowski (Warsaw Philharmonic, 15 October 2017).
- "God's Ball", concert commemorating the 99th anniversary of Polish independence and the 60th birthday of Jacek Kaczmarski, organized by the Róbmy swoje dla Kultury Foundation (Gdańsk, 11 November 2017).
- Exhibition commemorating the work of Stanisław Ignacy Witkiewicz, an event organized as a part of the 100th anniversary of the avant-garde movement in Poland (International Art Fair Warsaw, Kubicki Arcades, 13–15 October 2017).
- Exhibition "Urban revolt. Avant-Garde Art from the Collections of the National Museum in Warsaw" (27 October 2017–21 January 2018).

Other initiatives

- "Action Diplomacy", organized by the Students Scientific Circle for Foreign Affairs at the Warsaw School of Economics (3 April–9 May 2017).
- Celebrations of the World Information Society Day, organized by the Polish Information Processing Society (March–May 2017).
- XIX edition of the Małopolska Days of Cultural Heritage under the theme "Backstage perspective" ("Od kuchni"), organized by the Małopolska Institute of Culture in Kraków (May 2017).
- XI International Summer School "The Contemporary Problems of Children and Youth in Multicultural Societies – Theory, Research, Praxis", organized by UNESCO Janusz Korczak Chair at the Maria Grzegorzewska University, together with a publication summarizing the event (7–16 September 2017).
- IV International Youth Workshops in Janusz Kusociński Primary School no. 3 in Legionowo (UNESCO Associated School) (October 2017).
- Educational and promotional project "Our common future", developing the competencies of pupils, students and scientists in the management of natural and cultural heritage, prepared for the 2017–2018 period by the University in Białystok, in cooperation with the Kronenberg Institute – the Future of Protected Areas Foundation. Patronage granted in 2017.
- Celebrations of the National Preschooler's Day under the slogan: "Preschooler's Day in Warsaw – a healthy and friendly city", organized by the Polish Committee of World Organization for Early Childhood Education OMEP (21 September 2017).

Exhibitions

- "Me and you. In the search for new solidarity". Exhibition of photographs of Olivier Föllmi, (Music and Dance House in Zabrze, 14 September–31 October 2017).

- Celebrations of the VII World Day of the Multiplication Table, organized by the Karty Grabowskiego Publishing house (29 September 2017).
- Celebrations of the World Philosophy Day under the title "Lapis philosophorum", organized in Lublin, by the International Primary School Paderewski and the Dom Słów Ośrodka Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN (16 November 2017).
- IV International Conference EDUCATION-INNOVATION. Healthy education, organized in Szczecin by the Sławęcin Association of Local Initiatives (6-7 October 2018)
- National conference "Outside the teaching discourse. Directions of changes in theory and practice of early education", organized by the Maria Grzegorzewska University and the Polish OMEP Committee (15 November 2018)
- Scientific Conference "Traditional Culture in the perspective of the Protection of Heritage and Regional Identities", organized by the Maria Curie-Skłodowska University in Lublin (29-30 November 2018).
- Baltic Sea States Forum "Cultural Heritage in Promotion and Development of the Baltic Sea Region", organized by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and the National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk (28-30 November 2018, National Maritime Museum in Gdańsk).
- XI International Conference on "Respect for Human Rights and Freedoms: The Global Contexts", organized by the Faculty of Organization and Management of the Silesian University of Technology in Zabrze (10 December 2018).

2018

Conferences

- A methodological conference for Warsaw teachers "Varsavianistic education at school", organized by the Museum of Warsaw and the National Education Commission Library in Warsaw (23–24 April 2018).
- Event: "From Africa to Europe – cultural diversity as a window to the world", organized by the "Dorotka" Art and Theatre Kindergarten in Olsztyn (member institution of UNESCO ASPnet), the "One World – Children of Intercultural Dialogue" Association, the Scientific Circle of the Cultural Anthropology Department at the University of Warmia and Mazury, and the Emilia Sukertowa-Biedrawina Provincial Public Library in Olsztyn (May 2018).
- III Digital Youth Forum in the Copernicus Science Centre in Warsaw, organized by the We Give Children Strength Foundation (17 May 2018).
- International Conference "Guidance and Counselling for Solidarity, Social Justice and Dialogues in a Diverse World", organized by the UNESCO Chair on Lifelong Guidance and Counseling at The University of Wrocław (24-25 May 2018).
- V National Scientific Conference "Cyberspace and virtual worlds. Between ars and téchnē – education in the 21st century", organized by the Maria Grzegorzewska University (Warsaw, 15 June 2018).
- V International Scientific Conference "Tourism in Environmentally Valuable Areas". Organized by the Kronenberg Institute and the Białystok University of Technology (13-14 September 2018).
- Action Diplomacy, organized by the Students Scientific Circle for Foreign Affairs at the Warsaw School of Economics (5 April–22 May 2018).
- X Edition of the competition "Polish Village – the Heritage and the Future", organized by the Foundation for the Development of Polish Agriculture. The competition serves to promote the role of culture and heritage protection in rural areas and to enrich the public debate on the heritage of Poland's countryside.
- VI Interschool Knowledge Competition About Zabrze, organized by the II Secondary School in Zabrze (UNESCO Associated School), (12 December 2018).

Competitions and Olympiads

- National Competition for the "Literary Arbutus Laurel", organized by the II Secondary School in Tomaszów Mazowiecki (UNESCO Associated School), (November 2018).

Festivals

- VII edition of the Katowice Jazz Art Festival, organized by Katowice – City of Gardens, Krystyna Bochenek Institution of Culture (26–30 April 2018).
- XXVIII International Festival of Fine Arts "Color Art" in Goleniów, organized by the Goleniów Community Centre under the title "Between water and the sky" (15–19 May 2018).
- VII International Youth Festival in Krosno, organized by the Stanisław Pigoń State Higher Vocational School in Krosno (16–19 May 2018).
- XII edition of the World Fairy Days, organized in Olsztyn by the Bajka (Fairy) Association (24–26 May 2018).
- Open Gardens Festival (Józefów, 25–27 May; Sadyba, 8–10 June; Podkowa Leśna, 15–17 June 2018).
- XI edition of the Summer Jazz Academy, organized by the Wytwórnia Foundation (Wytwórnia Club in Łódź, 12 July–30 August 2018).
- Symphonic Concert of the Polish Sinfonia Iuventus Orchestra led by Mirosław Jacek Błaszczyk. Inauguration of the 2018/2019 artistic season, National Philharmonic Hall in Warsaw (8 October 2018).

Exhibitions

- "Playing with Culture – Traditional Asian Plays and Games" organized by the Asia and Pacific Museum in Warsaw (7 April–4 November 2018).

Other initiatives

- Celebrations of the 250th birth anniversary of Jędrzej Śniadecki, organized by the Jędrzej Śniadecki, Karol Olszewski and Zygmunt Wróblewski Association (inauguration on 28 January 2018 at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, ending in Vilnius with the international scientific conference Oxygenalia 2018).
- Celebrations of the World Information Society Day (17 May) and the 70th anniversary of Polish computer science, organized in Poland throughout the year by the Polish Information Processing Society (institutional patronage).
- The Lost Museum Project (9th edition), organized as a part of the Long Night of Museums. An outdoor display of works once owned by the last king of Poland, Stanisław August Poniatowski, took place in the Warsaw Royal Łazienki Park, Gdańsk and Toruń, organized by the Ad Artis SAR Art Foundation (19 May 2018).
- English language summer camps in Tczew, Toruń and Załęcze Wielkie. A commercial undertaking, organized jointly and with the participation of the teachers and staff of the Kościuszko Foundation in New York (July 2018).
- World Philosophy Day celebrations, organized in Lublin by the Dom Słów Ośrodka Brama Grodzka – Teatr NN and the Paderewski Schools (belonging to the UNESCO ASP net), (15 November 2018).
- Publication of the textbook *WISE Book: Widening, Interdisciplinary Sustainability Education* (collective work, edited by Katarzyna Iwińska, Michael Jones, Magdalena Kraszewska), by Collegium Civitas, following an international project implemented as part of the European ERASMUS+ programme.

Members of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO



Prof. Dr hab. Jacek Purchla, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Head of the Chair in Economic and Social History and of the UNESCO Chair in Heritage and Urban Studies at the Kraków University of Economics, as well as the Head of the Chair in European Heritage at Kraków's Jagiellonian University. Founder and Director of the International Cultural Centre in Kraków (1991-2017). Chairperson of the 41st session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.



Prof. Dr hab. Michał Kleiber, Vice-President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. President of the Polish Academy of Sciences (2007-2015), Minister of Science and Information Technology (2001-2005). Formerly Director of the Institute of Fundamental Technological Research of the Polish Academy of Sciences, President of the State Committee for Scientific Research and Chairman of the Governmental Committee for Offset Contracts. Pro bono advisor to the President of the Republic of Poland on science and technology (2006-2010).



Prof. Dr hab. Sławomir Ratajski, Secretary-General of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO. Full professor at the Faculty of Media Art of the Warsaw's Academy of Fine Arts. Ambassador of the Republic of Poland to Argentina (2001-2005), Secretary of State at the Ministry of Culture (1997-1999).



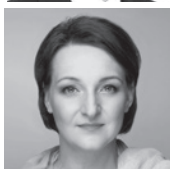
Piotr Wawrzyk, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Assistant professor at the Institute of European Studies, University of Warsaw. Participant in Poland-EU accession negotiations (1998-1999); expert of the Sejm EU Affairs Committee (2005-2009). Specializes in international cooperation and the EU, with a particular focus on internal security, European and international civil and family law, and European legal systems.



Jerzy Burski, Director of the Department of the United Nations and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (since December 2017). Started his career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1999. Deputy Permanent Representative of Poland to the UN Office in Geneva (2012-2017); Head of Division and then Deputy Director at the Department of the UN and Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2008-2012); II Secretary at the Embassy of Poland to the Kingdom of the Netherlands (2003-2007).



Dr Piotr Dardziński, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Science and Higher Education, responsible for the cooperation between science and business. He holds a PhD in political science and teaches at the Institute of Political Science and International Relations of the Jagiellonian University. His research interests concern economic doctrines, particularly ordoliberalism and economic policy. He studied at Hamburg University and at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland).



Dr hab. Magdalena Gawin, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage and Chief Monuments Conservator (since November 2015). Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences. Initiator of the Centre for Studies on Totalitarianism (2016). Author of numerous publications, i. a. on the history of the Polish eugenics movement. Member (2006-2015) of the international Working Group on the History of Race and Eugenics (HRE), affiliated with Oxford Brooks University.



Maciej Kopeć, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of National Education, local government and social activist. West Pomeranian Superintendent of Education (2006-2008); for many years history teacher and deputy headmaster of the 7th General Education Schools Complex in Szczecin. Awarded with the Silver Cross of Merit and the Medal of the Commission of National Education, the Minister of National Education Awards (twice), as well as the "Pro Patria" Medal.



Sławomir Mazurek, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of the Environment. Previously: Chairman of the Supervisory Board of the Voivodeship Fund for Environmental Protection in Olsztyn, press spokesman to the Minister of the Environment (2006-2007). Member of the Polish delegation to the Climate Change Conference in Nairobi and the Session of the UN General Assembly held in 2007 in New York.



Karol Okoński, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Digital Affairs since July 2018 (earlier, since June 2016, Undersecretary of State). Supervises the areas of Cybersecurity, National Systems and Development of Digital Services. Vice-Chairman of the Digital Committee of the Council of Ministers and Chairman of the IT Architecture Council; Member of the Joint Committee of the Central and Local Government, where he is also Vice-Chair of the Information Society Team.

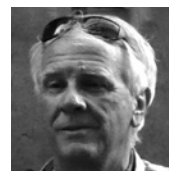


Anna Krupka, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Sport and Tourism (since November 2018), responsible for further strengthening of the competitiveness of Poland's tourist offer. Co-author of the action programme "Law and Justice: the opportunity for young people" and contributor to the action programme "Poland: safe, focused on solidarity and modern". Member of the Sejm (Polish Parliament) in its 8th term of office.

Prof. Dr hab. Ewa Bartnik, biologist, researcher at the Institute of Genetics and Biotechnology of Warsaw University's Faculty of Biology, and at the Polish Academy of Sciences Institute of Biochemistry and Bioethics. Member of the UNESCO International Bioethics Committee, IBC (2009-2017). Represented Poland on the UNESCO Intergovernmental Bioethics Committee, IGBC (2005-2009).



Prof. Dr hab. Piotr Bieliński works at the Institute of Archaeology at the University of Warsaw. He is a specialist in the history and archaeology of Mesopotamia, Syro-Palestine and the Persian / Arab Gulf Basin. For over 40 years has been leading Polish archaeological expeditions in Iraq, Syria and lately in Kuwait and Oman. Director of the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology at the University of Warsaw. Member of the UNESCO International Coordination Committee for the Saving of the Cultural Heritage of Iraq.



Prof. Dr hab. Mieczysław Choraży, head of the Tumour Biology Department at the Centre for Translational Research and Molecular Biology of Cancer, Maria Skłodowska-Curie Memorial Cancer Centre and Institute of Oncology, Gliwice Branch (1951-1995), Ordinary Member of the Polish Academy of Science, and Full Member of the Polish Academy of Arts and Sciences, former President of the Polish Society of Oncology and Vice-President of the European Association for Cancer Research. Holder of honoris causa degrees from two Medical Universities.



Małgorzata Dzieduszycka-Ziemilska, co-organisier of the Wrocław International Open Theatre Festival (1973-1981). Consul-General of the Republic of Poland in Montreal (1992-1996), Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Poland to UNESCO in Paris (2000-2003). Former Minister Plenipotentiary for Polish-Jewish Relations at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairperson of the Polish Council of the European Movement.



Prof. Dr hab. Jerzy Hausner, Professor of Economic Sciences. Works in the Department of Public Economy and Administration at the Kraków University of Economics, Rector's Plenipotentiary for Culture and Sport. Deputy Prime Minister (2003-2005). Member of: the Polish Economic Society, the Monetary Policy Council (2010-2016), the Economics Committee of the Polish Academy of Sciences and the Committee on Labour and Social Policy Sciences. Since 2014 in the Bruegel, Brussels, European and Global Economic Laboratory.



Prof. Dr hab. Leszek Kolankiewicz, culturologist, Professor at the University of Warsaw, member of the Central Commission for Academic Degrees and Titles. Previously: Director of the Institute of Polish Culture at the University of Warsaw (2005-2012) and Director of Centre de civilisation polonaise at the Paris-Sorbonne University (2012-2016). Former President of the Committee on Cultural Studies of the Polish Academy of Sciences and Head of the team of experts on Intangible Cultural Heritage, established by the Minister of Culture and National Heritage.



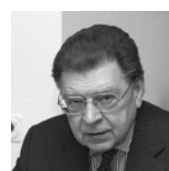
Prof. Marek Konarzewski, Professor of Biology at the Institute of Biology, University of Białystok (since 1985). Formerly carried out postdoctoral work in Dr. Jared Diamond's laboratory at the University of California, Los Angeles (1991-1993). Corresponding member of the Polish Academy of Sciences (since 2010); Science and Technology Adviser to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (since 2017). Main research interests: physiological ecology and the emerging field of evolutionary physiology.



Paweł Lisicki, journalist, essayist and a writer. Founder and editor-in-chief of weekly 'Do Rzeczy'; former editor-in-chief of a nation-wide daily paper 'Rzeczpospolita' (2006-2011). Lately published: „Poza polityczną poprawnością”, „Krew na naszych rękach?” (awarded by Polish Journalist Association 2016), „Dżihad i samozagłada Zachodu”. Has received The Order of Polonia Restituta.



Prof. Dr hab. Andrzej Rottermund, art historian, President of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO (2011-2015), Director of the Royal Castle in Warsaw (1991-2015), Chairman of the Association of Art Historians (1987-1991), President of the Polish National Committee of ICOM (International Council of Museums) (1990-1996). Correspondent Member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Author of more than a hundred books, articles and essays on the history of art, Polish architecture and the Royal Castle collection.



Bulletin of the Polish National Commission for UNESCO 2017/18

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